

THE
Life and Death of
william Long beard, the
most famous and witty English
Traitor, borne in the Citty
of London.

Accompanied with manye other
most pleasant and prettie histories, By T.
L* of Lincolns Inne, Gent.



G. STEEVENS

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Life and Death of

William Longbeard, the

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 of London.

By the same Author, who has
 written many other
 witty and humorous
 Tracts.

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THE LIFE AND death of William

Long beard.

Howe Willyam Long beard betraied his elder brother vnto his death, of his falling in acquaintance with the Abbot of *Cadonance* in *Normandy*, and how cunningly and coulourably they got authority from the Kinge to accomplish their ambitious pretences.



W^hilst all the world was in byprie, and the papie raigne in the Church, when God by prodigious signes, threatened pestilent plagues: at such time as two sunnes appeared in our North in England, and three Moones were discovered in the West in Italie, William with the longe beard was borne in the famous Cittie of London, of greater minde then of high parentage, a graft of mightie hope at the first, though (as it afterwards proued) his parents spent too much hope on so little vertue. This free Cittizen borne, tenderly fostered in his infancie, was afterwards trained vp in good letters, wherein he profited so suddenlie, that most men wondered at his capacitie, and the wisest were afraid of the conclusion: And for that the age wherein hee was bred (being the third yeare of Henrie the Second) was full of troubles, this yong mans rare gifts were raked vp in the embers, little regarded because not yet ripened: but at last as yeares increased the minde ordained for mightie thinges began to mount, he rather because ambition sealed his eyes, which made him with the Dunces share so hie, till his own cunning

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and labour made him be ouerturned: for when he perceined his fathers foete already prepared for the graue, his mother seized by age, and more besotted with affection, himselfe at mans estate & without maintenance, he thus began the first fruites of his impietie, the sequell thereof excedeth all conceit, and testifieth his deuilish and damnable nature. He had a brother elder than himselfe in yeares, but younger in policie, who (hauing by his owne frugalitie gotten great wealth) was called to be a Burgesse of the cittie: a man beloued of all men for his vpriht dealing, and lamented of all men for his vntimely death. For William little regarding the benefites he had receiued of him in his youth, the brotherlie kindnesse, the bountifull curtesies, sought all means possible to betray him, who had trained him vp, to suck his hart blond, who had sought his harts rest, and to that intent seeing the opportunitie fitted him, in the raigne of Richard the first, that noble Prince of famous memorie, he suborned certeine lewd and sinister confederates of his to accuse him of Treason: for which cause poore innocent man being suddenly apprehended, his goods were confiscate, his body imprisoned, his wife and children left succourlesse, whilst wicked William being both complotter, informer, and witnes, wrought so cunningly with the kings counsell that the gods were his, which his brother with his long labour had gotten, and the poore innocent man brought out before the Iudges with weeping eyes, beheld his younger brother both reueling in his riches, and reioicing at his ruine. Many were his obtestations before God, and protestations to the Iudges, manie his exhortations to his brother, and detestations of his perjurie. But William whose hart was the very harbour of all impietie, ceased not in his owne person to sollicite, and by his companions to incense the Iudges in such sort, that his brother was at last by them condemned and adjudged to death, as some Writers suppose for coining. And being led forth to his execution like an harmllesse innocent, the people mustering about the place, the cursed brother the occasion and compact of his confusion accompanie him, with

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with these or such like words he finished his life. Then God that knowest the cause of my untimely death, canst in iustice punish my vnjust accusers, meane while take mercie on my poore soule, who am forsaken of my private friends, be thou a safeguard vnto me, whose am left without succors, and helpe the desolate widdeow with hir distressed children: This said, after some private conference by permission, betwene his brother and him, he suffered torment.

But William having gotten wealth began to take vpon him state, and vnderstanding his father and mother through hartie grieue were in their extreame age committed to the graue, he seized on their goods, carrieng such a countenance in London that all men wondered at him: In towt he was pregnant; in publike affaires polittike; in reuenges constant, in speeches affable, in countenance graue, in apparell gorgeous, yea so cunning was he to insinuate himselfe among the Commons, that as the report went, he had more Bzentes clabs at his command, then the best Courtier had seruants to attend him.

And as the custome is whildest thus he behaved himselfe, it fortuned that hee fell in companie and conference with the Abbot of Cadonence in Normandie, a man as high minded as himselfe, and more subtil than Sinon, by whose aduise and directions he grew so craftilie conceited, that vnder a holie pretext he wrought more mischief, than either the Councell of England could for a long time remedie, or by industrie reuerse, and thus it fortuned. After that the noble and warlike Richard the firste of that name, had to his immortall glorie reconered his rights in France, established peace with the French king, and by the perswasions of his mother Dame Elianor, reconciled his brother Iohn, who had before that time bene at deadlie feud with him. It pleased his Maestie, partly for his owne recreation sake, partly to remedie the discontents of his subiects, to goe on Progressse in the eight yeare of his reigne, and in the yeare of our Lord 1197. at which time the Abbot of Cadonence and William watching an occasion and oportunitie, so cunning,

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He wrought the matter, that they had audience at his Ma-
testies hands, and attained vnder the broad seale the whole
summe of their requests. The Abbot coloured his strata-
gem vnder the copple of conscience: assuring the king that
the corruption of his officers were the chiefest groundes of
publike contention, praieng him in the bounty of an heroick
and princelie potentate, to take some order for the correction
of them, least at the last it should turne to his owne con-
fusion.

This maiestie that had euer regard of the poore, with gra-
tious good words thanked him for his good will, giuing him
warrant and authoritie to redresse those inconueniences,
and promising him grea^t promotions, if he toke any profite
by his pollicie. William now that hath the second subtiltie
to enact, suted his looke in all sobrietie, and stroaking his
long beard which he curiously fostered euen from the begin-
ning, tolde the king of the insolence and outrage of rich men
who spared their owne and pilled the poore, robbed Irus and
clawed Midas: beseeching in the commons behalfe, a reme-
die for this inconuenience: wherevnto the king easilie con-
descended, so that he likewise was authorized to redresse such
enormities, and both he and his fellowe Abbot, were with
maie^{stie} princelie fauours dismissed.

Spounted thus vpon the wheele of Fortune, which euerie
waie sheweth hir selfe as fickle as she is fauourable, as ful
of gall as she hath honte, they both of them depart for Lon-
don, carrieng so high countenances as euerie one were a-
mazed at their manners. My lord Abbot first suted in his
Pontificalibus called forth diuers officers, purposing to ex-
amine their accounts, taunting them with vntoward lan-
guages, and accompanieng threats with imprisonment.
But as the Giants that threatened the heavens were ouer-
throwne in their most haughtinesse, and as Phaeton usurping
his fathers seat was confounded for his ambitious pride by
vntimelie death, so the Abbot of Cadonence, when he thought
to cauell at all accompts, was called to accompt himselfe,
before the Tribunall iustice seat of God, and died in midst
of

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of his solitarie. But William who toized with the Phoenix to burne in the sunne, and aduentured to crosse the troublesome seas of this world to perish with ouermuch wastling in the same, now began his pageant exhorting and stirring the commons to loue and imbrace libertie, to fight and labour for freedome, bytestis to detest and blame the excesse and outrage of rich men, whose as he tolde them reaped the sweet whilst they paye soules sweat for it. Hereunto wised he manie stories of antiquitie: First the Laconian state, next the popular gouernement of Athens, wherein peace neuer flourished better said he, than when the Commons had freedom of speech. With these and such like honie speech, he so animated the multitude, that like a second Hercules he drew them by the eares thorow the honis of his eloquence. And to his words he annered action, vnder taking manie poore mens causes, who were overborne by the rich, handling his matters with such possieie, as that he was held for a second God among the poore, and for a long time esteemed for a good subiect by the Prince. Yet notwithstanding this, the mightie maligned him greatly, for that he had informed the king that by their means his Maestie lost manie forfeits and escheats which were due vnto him: and for that his detested subtilties may be more apparant, where through he cloaked his succeding treacheries, I haue thought good to sette downe some one of them, which may glue a taste to those tragike miseries which shall ensue.

How William with the long beard handled the cause of Peter Nowlay a Cobler, who was iniured by Robert Befant, sometime Bailife of London.



During the time that William long beard flourished after this manner in all pompe and pleasure, attended daillie and hourelie by hole troops of Citizens, it fortunied that one Peter Nowlay a cobler, a man of little capacitie liued in London, whose baning gotten vpp

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by his owne hardie labour and endeuour, the summe of forty marks, and not knowing the meanes how to employ the same to his best commoditie, solicited one Robert Befaunt, sometimes Waylife of London, to take the same money into his hands and to employ it to some good vse, to the ende that after his decease, his poore infants which were twoe in number might haue some succour and maintenance.

This money Robert Befaunt accepted, hauing the vse thereof for the space of ten yeares, accustomed poore Peter as these great men are wont to doe, to a Sundayes dinner, and sweet words (which in these our daies is the vertie poison of this world, & in that time was no small pestilence) At last, pleased God so call the Cobler to his mercie, where through his poore wife liued distressed, his children complaine theyr miserie, and all his neighbors considering the honestie of the man in his life, were compassionate, and pittied his Orphanes after his death. The poore mother seeing hir necessities increase, and hir abilitie quite ouerthrowne, separated apart from all companie, began to weepe vertie tenderlie, recommending hir poore babes to his mercy, who had no doubt lent them hir to a better end than famishment.

Ah! (said she) my God, if the least Sparrow is not cared for by thee, what letteth me to trust my childrens helth vnto thee, who hauing bestowed breath vpon them, mayest likewise in fauour bestow bread vpon them. Thou seest Lord their friend is taken from them, and the mothers nestlings without thy helpe must become staruelings: Woe is me; would God I had forgon my life, or forgotten loue: or would my handes were as plentifull, as my heart is pittifull. Ah Pellican, I must imitate thee, and pierce mine owne breast to the end I may foster my babes, otherwise the helpe is vaine which hope yeeldeth, since charitie is cold which should feede hope. Woe is me, where should I begin to mourne, that haue no end of mone. Shall I lament my marriage: no, the heauens ordained it: shall I complaine of Fortune: no: for then I suppose an enemie where there is none: shall I blame my fruitfulness: how vaine were that: since it is

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as felicitie to enjoy babes. What then shall I doe: truelie put
my whole trust and confidence in Gods mercie, whose being
Lord of all plentie can best of all relieue necessities. Scarcely
had she ended these wordes, when as his yong ones, the one
embracing his necke cried for meate; the other kissing his
hands morninglie bewailed his wants: whilst she like Mir-
rha hauing tears to bewail them, no trespasse to relieue them,
sung this wofull Lullabie vnto them, whilst the musicke of
his voice enforced them to listen his.

Lullabie,
Ah little Laddes
Giue ceaselesse sorow end with lullabie,
Suck vp my teares
That streame from out the fountaines of mine eie,
Feed, feed on me
whom no good hope or Fortune glads,
Oh set me free
From those incessant and pursuing feares
which waken vp my woes and kil my pleasure.

Lullabie,
Weepe, weepe no more
But let me weepe, and weeping weepe life hence,
That whilst you want,
I may not see false Fortunes proud pretence.
When I am dead
My God perhaps will send you store.
Oh smile in need,
Poore hungry babes let smiles be nothing scant
I teares, yow smiles; both haue no better treasure,
To bring these woes exceeding meane or measure
To Lullabie.

Soe soone had she finished his song but Robert Besaunt
entered the house, who though altogether giuen ouer to co-
ntentment, yet beholding the wofull estate of the poore wife

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his children, he comforted them the best he might, sending for some little sustenance to yeld hir and hir little ones some succour, and after some conference about hir husbands state, & his manner of death, he desired colourable to see hir writings, to the ende he might conuenable conuate out of her hands the bill of fortie marks, which he had past vnto Peter hir husband in his time. The sickle soule supposing his almes deeds was vnattended by trecherie, drew out of an olde till, certeine briefes which she had, vnder these or such like terms, Maister Besaunt (saith she) your worship as I remember, ought to be a patron of these poore infants: for I haue oftentimes heard my husband saye (when I had a motherlie care what should become of my children) that he had promised for them, charging me to remember that till euer when I needed, & to vse you as a father for these infants, whose honestie as he swore, he would build his soule vpon: for which cause (giving him the writings) I beseech your Wor^{ship}, quoth she, to peruse all his secrets, & to stand my good friend in this my miserable widowhood. Maister Besaunt touched to the quicke, changed colour verie often, and receiving them at hir hands with a quivering feare (proceeding by reason of his earnest combat betwene conscience and covetousnesse) he at last, after long perusing, found his owne bill, which he carelesslie tearing, tolde hir that all of it was but wast paper, and there vpon blushinglie departed, giving hir but colde comfort for hir great hope.

The good woman animated by some diuine power, and aspieng the scales of his shame shadowed in his blushing browes, toke hold of his golowne sleue, praieing him to staie a little while, and not to leaue hir so suddenlie: for (saith she) good sir, if you thus leaue vs, you shall proue that you little loue vs: besides, your hast makes me to misdoubt your honestie (pardon good sir I praye you if I mistake) for thus to weake your selfe on paper, and to shew by your suspicious looks, your apparant misdoubts, makes me imagine you haue deceined my Peters hope, besides these papers which you haue to me, may perhaps be some testimonies, which I
will

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will gather as the reliques of your rage (and there will the
stooped and toke them vp) But about all good maister Be-
saunt remember God, quoth she, and if there be ought that
concerneth these little ones in your conscience, cloake not
in that behalfe, for God who gaue them me, will not suffer
their innocencie to be vnreuerged.

Maister Besaunt soze incensed with these words, and sus-
pitions least his counsell should be disclosed, by the broken
and scattered papers: at firste by smooth speeches, began to
persuade hir, to restore him them; but when reason and in-
treatie intoyed no place (for the more he moued hir, the more
she suspected) he began to vse violence. When as the poore
chilozen seeing their mother insured beyond measure, cried
for helpe for hir, whom motherlie care had animated alrea-
die, euen to the triall of death, rather than to leaue hir pa-
pers.

The noisse in the house, and the cris of the children, cal-
led in the neighbors, whoe seeing Robert Besaunt, a man of
such reputation as he was held: not daring to inforce, began
to intreat his forbearance: who dreading his owne discredit
beyond measure, left hir for that time, puffing, sweating,
and swearing, that he would be reuenged on hir, whoe had
in this sort wrought his discontent: to be short, he neuer de-
sisted, till she were imprisoned, holuing neuer to graunt hir
libertie, till suche time as she restored to him the tozne wri-
tings.

The miserable Widdowe in this peck of troubles, gather-
ring a vertie confident boldnesse vnto hir, denied the restitu-
tion. And finallie, after the counsell of some poore Citti-
zens, put vpp a supplication or a supplantation (as the sil-
lier sort of people called it) vnto William with the longe
beard, presenting him likewise with the broken and torne
poces of paper, neuer ceasing in most humble and pittifull
manner, to intreat a mercifull and tender compassion, to-
wardes the reliefe of hir selfe and hir poore children. Wi-
liam that pretermitted no occasion whereby he might insin-
uate himselfe amongst the poorer sort, and winne the credit

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of a good Iusticer at his princes handes, began to examine euerie circumstance, and to leaue no means vnsought, wher by he might get himselfe glozie, and doe the pape widdowe good.

First therefore, he toynd the papers, and conferred the manner of the iniurie with the other circumstances, and at last he euidentlie found, and therewithall certified others, that these tozue papers, was the bill of debt for forty marks. Finallie, comparing the estate of the pooze man with that of Besaunts, the time the money had bene in the defendants hands, and the corrupt intention of the riche man, whoe by renting the bill, thought to race out the remembzance of his due debt, he called him before him, charging the officiall to bzing the widdow and hir chyldzen before him in open sessions: where after long debating, and trouble on both sides, Besaunt standing on his credit, the widdow on hir innocence: William willing to catch the cat with his owne clawe, began thus. Maister Besaunt, you are called into iustice, not that we suspect your honestie, or detract from your estimate, but for this cause are you called: that if you will be deposed, that all allegations which may be alledged against you by this widdow are false, you may see hir punished, and iustice executed. Besaunt little suspecting the snare that was laide, and the subtiltie intended, began with huge oathes to protest, that he neither stood any waie indebted to the pooze Cobler latelie deceased: neither was in any sort liable to the false suggestions of the widdowe. William perceiving euidentlie the vngodlie intent of the man to defraud, and holmgrations a deed he should doe, to speak in the innocents defense: First commanded Besaunts Oath to be taken, and after that rolwing himselfe in a maiestieall manner, he began thus.

I see well my countrey men, that iustice had need of a patron, when those that should maintaine hir, seeke to maime hir: Ah what a world liue we in, when trust shall be betrayed: when simplicitie, shall be undermined with subtiltie: and pouertie overtopped by power. Behold saith hee, my countrey men,

of William Long beard.

treymen (and there withall he caused the two children to be placed by him) two harmlesse infants : for whom the poore father laboured in his life time, both left to begge after his death. Alas that corruption should blind iudgement so farr that where we ought in charitie to succour these, men make no conscience to supplant them . The Cedar though a tall tree, lets the little shrub prosper vnder him: the Eglantine flourisheth by the Dake: the Goldfinch feedeth by the Crisfin : but the prouerbe is true among vs nowadaies.

Homo homini Demon.

While liue as we should know no lack, we flourish as if we feare no fall, we purchase as if life could not perish : to win the world we make shipwacks of our soules : and in such a world where corruptions are so rife, iustice must not sleepe: for if it should, the wake should to the walles, and the peny father by his power, should ouerpresse the penlesse in their pouerties. Now therefore countrey men giue eare, and hearing, pittie : and pittieng, patronize these poore soules. This Bescant wrongeth them, making his credit the countenance of his craft, and his goods the coulour of his vngodlinesse: behold his hand writing, wherein he thinking to extinguish the memorie of his debt, hath renewed the meanes of his owne destruction, (which said, he publike lie shewed the papers) and after that turning him to M. Bescant, he expostulated thus ; Well sir, since your corruption is found out, and your vngodlie oathes haue doubled your offence, by that authoritie which I haue receiued from his maiesty: I condemn you to pay the summe of fortie marks with the vse thereof, for ten yeares, vnto this widdow and hir children: next, for your perurie, wherein you haue offended God especiallie, and next your countrey: I adiudge you to paie, in waie of a fine to his maiesty, two hundred pounds sterling: adiuling you hereafter, to vse your conscience more vprightlie, and to deale by the poorer soyt more iustlie.

Bescant who highlie stood on his reputation, was so amazed at his so sudden conuiction before the assemblee of the clergie, that he knew not what to say : his owne h. m. he coulde

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not denie, and if he should, there were some in the companie well acquainted therewith. To be aduodged thus of by his inferiour (as he thought) it was no small disgrace: for which cause, smothering vnder faire looks his false hart, he appealed to the king and his Councell: assuring William that he would not be discredited in that sort, and that it shoulde cost him a thousand pounds, but he would be reuenged. With these and such like speeches, the court brake vp, the toddlers & the childe were dismissed with giftes, and William with a thousand Cittizens at his taile, was with great triumphe conuayed to his lodging. But Besaunt for all his braues, was committed, and enforced to pay the penaltie, yea so did William worke with the king and his councell, as had not this corrupt marchant with great sommes got himself free, no doubt he had bene brought within the compas of a Perjurie, such subtil suggestions had William practised against him.

How William with the long beard behaued himselfe towards the Courtiers, and of his loue to his faire Lemman Maude-line.



William (having by this means insinuated himselfe into the fauour of the king, and by that reason brought the cittizens in feare of him) like the vntoward childe, whose hauing an inch, stealeth an elle: began to presume aboue the latchet (as the proverbe is) setting light by all men, animating the baser sort against the better: so that the Nobilitie put vp much iniurie at his hands, the clergie were badlie bled by him, and the officers of the cittie highlie offended. The earle of Durham then Chancelor and bishop, taking the parte of a chapleine of his, who was iniured by a meane and mechanickall townezman, was braued by him in Cheape side, beaten of his horse, and had not the Bailifes of the cittie rescued him

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him, the common speeches went, he should neuer haue courted it more. A gentleman in court at another time, observing William of his base estate and birth, told him that the worst haire in his beard, was a better gentleman than hee was: for which cause William mightilie agréued, and watching opportunitie of reuenge, at last incountred him by aue lie, mounted on his foot cloth in Friday street, where taking him forcibly from his horse, he carried him into a Barbers shop, and caused both his beard and head to be shaued close, pleasantlie gibing at him in this sort.

Gallant, now haue I cut of the whole traine of of the best gentlemen, you durst compare with me the last daie, and if hereafter you bide not your tong, (as base a Gentleman as you make me, Ile hate you by the eares. The king informed hereof, grew highlie offended, but William who wanted neither money, friends, nor eloquence, so ordered the matter, as his maligners might barke, but not bite him. But for that all his minde was planted on ambition, and his greatest feare was, least by ouer forward thrusting himselfe into state, his cloaked aspiring shoulde be discovered, he began for a while to leaue the court, to intend onelie the causes of the poore, and complot those meanes, whereby labouring for mightines without suspect, he might attaine the same without counterchecke: and first to make the whole how much his mind was altered from high climbing, he craftilie pretended a new conceited loue, and but pretending it at first, at laste was enforced to practise it, and thus it fell out.

An honest and well disposed Merchant of London, had by his wife a faire and amiable yong mayden to his daughter, being the onely hope of his age, and the fruit of his coage: This lonelie Mawdelin (as the lesser starres are in respect of the sunne, or Mercurie in regarde of the Dybe of Venus) amongst our London damosels, was the A perle for beautie, and the parragon of perfections, hir looks full of quickening puritie, were able to animate loue in Marble, nature could do no more but wonder at hir owne handiwooke; art had nought

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nought but shadowes, in respect of such a substance. All eyes that beheld hir wondred, all pens that praised hir were quickened by hir excellence. To be short, hir least worth was of so great consequence, as the best writer might be abashed, to conceit or imagine them: with this faire damosell William Long beard traffiqued his fancies, summoning hir pelding affections, with so manie earnest lutes and seruises, that he at last conquered that foie, wherein fancie himselte tooke delight to tyrannize: and as the Jet draweth Amber, the Load stone the Steele of the compasse, so hir beautie assaulted his senses, that all of them had no power of their offices, but were fatalle assigned to subscribe to hir sorceries. And whereas authoritie and countenance are wrested, the bulwarke of chastitie (though otherwise impregnable) is oftentimes impugned, and not onely assaulted, but at laste subdued: William by his friends and followers so wrought, that what by his friends and faire words, he won hir for his Lemmon, sparing no cost to trick hir out in bawerie, to the end he might by that meanes, giue a foile and glasse to her beatitie. This Maudelin thus compassed, hir paramour began to prauke it in the brauest fashion, wresting his wits to make an idoll of hir worth: whose amorous passions, since they are of some regard, I haue heer set downe for the courtliest eare to censure of.

Amidst the maze of discontented mind,
The royall trophy of ioy-breeding loue,
A happy holde and resting place did find,
Within that brest which earlt carthes hel did proue.

Since when my long-enfeebled eies haue reard,
Their drooping sight to gaze vpon the sunne,
Since when my thoughts in written lines appeard,
Reioycing at that Palme my faith had wunne.

Ennobled thus, by that thrice-nobled passion,
Which hath the power all worldly cares to banish,

of William Long beard.

I flie sweet-seeming leares of false occasion,
And let al thoughts but loue-sweet vade & vanish,
The fruits I reape in spight of Fortune froward,
Makes me suppose no torment too vntoward.

Another he made vpon this occasion. Maudelin his mistress had a faire Jewell, wherein the twoe Cupids of Anacreon were painted, wraßling the one with the other, with this Motto Pro palma, for which cause he wrote this sonnet, and presented hir the rewith.

Ye braine-begotten dieties agree you,
Nurst by transparant christall of chaste eies,
Least she that gaue you life on sudden see you,
And frowning kil you both who causde you rise.

From hir you came yong Cupids from no other,
And but for her if enuious you shal wrastle,
I feare you both wil lose a louely mother,
Hir brow your bower, hir bosome is your castle.

There gree you both, there both together go you,
And suck the Aprill ritches of hir brest,
Then I who long haue serued and loue to shew you
How much I loue the bosome where you rest.

Will come and kisse and bleße you little wantons,
And feed you kindly wantons if you want once.

Another in respect of the occasion, I could not find in my hart to forget, for being at supper once in hir companie, where were manie that discoursed of loue, shewing all the idolatrie of their pens, in eremplifeng that vnchast deittie, he at last when the table was taken vp, remembryng him of a sonnet in an ancient French Poet, on sudden wrote this imitation.

As soone as thou doost see the Winter clad in colde,
Within September on the Eaues in sundry formes to fold,

The life and death

Sweet Swallow farre thou fliest till to our native clime,
 In pleasant April Phœbus raies returne the sweeter time.
 But Loue no day forsakes the place whereas I rest,
 But euery houre liues in mine eies and in my hart dooth nest.
 Each minute I am thrall and in my wound ed hart,
 He builds his nest, he laies his egges, and thence wil neuer part
 Already one hath wings, soft downe the other clads,
 This breakes the skin, this newly fledg about my bosome gads.
 The one hath broke the shel, the other soares on hie,
 This newly laid, that quickly dead, before the dam come nie.
 Both day and night I heare the smal ones how they crie,
 Calling for food who by the great are fed for feare they die.
 All wax and grow to prooffe and euery yeare doolay
 A second nest, and sit and hatch the cause of my decay.
 Ah Maudline what reliefe haue I for to remoue
 These crooked cares that thus pursue my hart in harboring loue.
 But helpelesse of reliefe since I by care am stung,
 To wound my hart thereby to slaie both mother and hir young.

At another time, being absent from his mistress, by reason that he had a poore mans cause in Celler to be heard, he wrote this briefe fancie to hir, after the manner of the Italian rimes.

Oh faire of fairest Dolphin like,
 within the riuers of my plaint,
 With labouring finnes the waue I strike
 whose foulds are honored by my saint,
 Withouten hart or gall I spring,
 And swim to heare thee sweetly sing,
 All like the fish when natures art
 Hath rest of late and tender hart,

And in the sea for loue I burne,
 As for Arion did the fish,
 At euerie note I skip & turne;
 I harke, I praise, I like, I wish.

But

of William Long beard.

But out alas with better chaunce
The friendly fish did him aduance,
He bare Arion on his back
Where I thy sweet imbracements lack.

These offer thee for their shynesse and strangenesse, I
could not finde in my hart to pretermitt, knowing that the
better sort, that are praisie to the imitation and method, will
haue their due estimate.

My mistresse when she goes
To pull the pinke and rose,
Along the riuier bounds
And trippeth on the grounds
And runnes from rocks to rocks
With louely scattered locks
Whilst amorous wind doth play
With haire so golden gay
The water waxeth cleere
The fishes draw hir neere
The *Sirens* sing hir praise
Sweet flowers perfume hir waies
And *Neptune* glad and faine
Yeelds vp to hir his raigne.

Another.

When I admire the rose
That nature makes repose
In you the best of many
More faire and blest than any
And see how curious art
Hath decked euery part
I thinke with doubtfull view
Whether you be the rose, or the rose is you.

An Ode he wrote amongst the rest I dare not forget, in
that the Poetrie is appertinent to this time, and hath no lesse
life

The life and death

life in it than those of the ancients, & the rather because here by the learned may see, how even in those daies, Poecy had hir impugnors, and industrie could not be free from detraction.

His Ode.

Since that I must repose
Beyond th'infernal Lake,
What vailes me to compose
As many verses as Homer did make?

Choice numbers cannot keepe
Me from my pointed graue,
But after lasting sleepe
The doomb of dreadful iudge I needs must haue.

I put the case my verse,
In lieu of all my paine,
Ten yeares my praise rehearse
Or somewhat longer time some glorie gaine.

What wants there to consume
Or take my lines from light,
But flame or fierie fume
Or threatning noice of war or bloody fight?

Excell I *Anacrión*
Stesicóres, *Simónides*,
Antimachus or *Bion*,
Philetas, or the graue *Bacchilides*?

All these though Greekes they were
And yfde that fluent too, I
In course of many a yeare
Their workes are lost and haue no biding long.

Then I who want wits sap,
And wise but bastard rime,

of William Long beard.

May I expect the hap,
That my endeouers may ore-come the time?

No, no: tis farre more meet
To follow Marchants life,
Or at the iudges feet
To sell my tooing for bribes to maintaine strife.

Then haunt the idle traine
Of poore Calliope,
Which leaues for hunger slaine,
The choicest men that hir attendants be:

These and such like fruits of his fancie, may sufficientlie tell his vnto you, both the high spirite and deepe inuention of this craftie Citizen, who flourishing thus in the verie fullnesse of loues ioy, and reuelling in the chiefeest pallaces of pleasure, at last recalled to mind, the ambitious desires that were wont to accompanie him, which hauing the nature of fire (which no sooner catcheth hold of drye matter but presently lie it consumeth it) from a light smoke at last fell to so huge a flame, that himselfe was confounded therewith, and all his hopes made frustrate: and thus it fell out.

The kings Patente hearing of his continual assemblies, and comparing his purposes with his practise, began vnder no small grounds to conceiue his cursed intention: for considering with himselfe the manner of his life, the businesse of his byaine, the tiling eloquence of his tooing, and the mightinesse of his mind; he imagined (as afterward it fell out) that so great means of quick and capeable fuel; would at last breake out to an vquenchable flame: whereupon the K. with considerate iudgement called him to court, commanding him to cease his disordered assemblies, least in seeking to exterminate the iniuries of the rich, he shuld reuiue the insolence of the poore. For (said he) William, whose seed not thereto these routes tend: whose thinketh not that riot will follow them? The labouring men that were kept from in-

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nonations by their worke, are now capable of all chang and nouelties in their idlenesse: In liuing as they do, they rather are drawn to detest labor, then to follow it: wherthrough the offices and mechanickall crafts in the cittie doe cease, and by the omission of industriouseth, the pretermision of dutie. For this cause, as you haue care of my loue, incite them not to too much libertie. Further them what you may, if they be wronged: but let not iustice be a colour to winne them to wickednes. With these, or such like admonitions kinge Richard attempted him, and so wrought him, that for a while the commotions and motives of trouble were laide apart, so that he walked London streets with lesser troops, and wholie aduised himselfe to play with his faire Maudeline, whose vnchaste life was a bl-wood in the cittie.

How William with the long beard slew Arthur Browne, who deceiued him of his Maudline.

Will William was conuerſent in the affaires of ſtate, intending euerie waie to enlarge his owne power, and attending daſelte vpon the kinges pleaſure; it ſortuned, that one Arthur Browne, ſuruered by his youth, and ſitted by occaſion, fell in with Maudline, Williams wanton concubine: and hauing welch ſufficient, and wit no leſſe ſubtil, he ſo craftilie handled the cauſe, that he won the yong woman to ſcoope to a ſeconde loue, and to accept his loue. Spante and often times had they entercouſe, ſo that at laſt the rumoz paſſing in enerie place, it coulde not choſe but light at laſſe in Williams hearing: who moued beyond meaſure to ſee himſelfe outſaced by one, who had ſo long time bene feared by all, he ſtrowingly prepared reuenge, reſoluing with himſelfe that no means were to meane, to giue a tragicall ſauce to his corrupt meaning. Wherevpon, beaking his mind with certaine of his facti- on, he agreed to watch an oportunitie to reuenge impietie: and for that cauſe watching verie craftilie when Arthur his kiuall ſhould repaire vnto his lawleſſe lemman, he at laſſe ſurpt-

of William Long beard.

surprised and encountred him, and causing some of his train
to muffle him in his cloake, and to stopp his mouth for feare
of crieng, he stabbed him with a dagger in diuers places,
and in the last wound left the same sticking, fastning the
poore caitifes owne hande with his owne dagger, which he
had purposed (to auoid all meanes of suspition, and to raise
an opinion that he had murdered himselfe) sheathed in Ar-
thurs owne bodie. This done, he departed vnspied and vn-
suspected: and the bodie being founde, according to the cen-
sure and verdict of the Iurie which behelde the same, was
thrust thorow with a stake, and so buried as if he had bene
guiltie of his owne murder. William thus deliuered of a
supplanter of his pleasure after some unkindnesse past and
calmed betwene him and his Maudline) finallie fell to an
accord, accusoming hir as he was wont, vnder promise of
more constancie in affection, and to the intent she should re-
member hir of the iniuries offered, he wrot this with a poin-
ted Diamond in hir glasse.

Thinke what I suffred (wanton) through thy wildenesse,
When traitor to my faith thy losenesse led thee:
Thinke how my moodie wrath was turnde to mildnesse
When I bad best yet baser groomes did bed thee.

Thinke that the staine of bewtie then is stained,
When lewd desires doo alienate the hart:
Thinke that the loue which will not be contained,
At last will grow to hate in spight of art.

Thinke that those wanton lookes will haue their wrinkles,
And but by faith olde age can merit nothing,
When time thy pale with purple ouer-sprinkles,
Faith is thy best, thy beautie is a woe thing.

In youth be true, and then in age resolue thee,
Friends wil be friends, till time with them dissolue thee.
But leauing these his effeminate follies of youth, wherein he
so vngratiously passed his time, let vs draw to the confide-

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ration of his traitorous practices, and finally, as the fruits of such sinister follies conclude with his tragicall end. After he had for a time, vntill the princes minde were otherwise withdrawne with more weightie matters, ceased both his routs and riots; the old rancled venom of his ambition began more freely to breathe forth, so that what before time he colored vnder conscience, now at last he manifested with audacious confidence: The mightie in court that maligned him, he ouermastered by his attendants, swashing out in open streets vpon euery light occasion: for himselfe, he thought no man sufficient to suppress him, nor of sufficiency to haue him: for at a beck, Coblers, Tinkers, tailors, and all sortes of the base-brained multitude attended him, fought for him, supported him, and made him Lord of their factions: where-through, the better sort neither were Lords of themselves, neither commanders of their owne liberties. From some he extorted wealth by corrupt witnesses, sparing no meanes to enrich his followers, by racking and wresting the kinges authoritie: and no sooner did he heare that the kinge had giuen order to his counsell to sensure on his bad demeanors, but gathering to himselfe a huge multitude, he openly vsed this discourse vnto them, beginning his exhortation with this place of Scripture:

Haerietis aquas in gaudio de fontibus saluatoris

Which is as much to say, as, You shall drawe waters with Ioy out of the fountaines of our Sauour. For, quoth he, my worthy and faithfull friends, whose haue more courage than coine, and abilitie in armes then possibilities of wealth, I am the sauour of you that are poore, and the soveraigne of such as are penlesse: you that haue assayed the hard hand of the rich, shall be succoured by the happie hande of the righteous.

Now therefore drain your happie fountaines of counsell out of my words, and turne the troubles you haue, to assured triumphs: for the daies of your visitation is at hande. I shall depart waters from waters; I mean, the proud from the poore, the merclesse from the mercifull, the god from the euill

of William Long beard.

enill, and the light from the darknesse. I will oppose my selfe against all dangers, to prevent your damage; and lose my life, but you shall haue liuing. Be confident therefore and bolde: for such as haue courage, are seldome conquered. Let the greatest vphraid, they shall not bite: we haue weapons to withstand, as well as wordes to perswade: we are as couragious as our enemies are craftie. Stick therefore vnto me, who will strue for you: let me be supprest, you are subdured: let me flourish, you are fortunate: but if sinister chance threaten; wile, *Alca iacta est:*

vna salus victis nullam sperare salutem

Thus daillie and hourely animated he the ill minded sorte: and although the king did oftentimes summon him, and by letters disuaded him from his ill demeanour: yet was hee enforced to vse violence; or otherwise, that stripe which at first seemed to be but a fillip, would at last haue growne vnto a fistula. For which cause, Hubert then Bishop of Canterburie soundly resolving in his thoughts, that forbearance would be the meanes of further mischief, by the aduise of others of the Princiue counsell, called him in question, summoning him against an appointed day, to come and yeelde a reason of those his factions tumults.

William, that saw the iron readie to war hot, and the hammers readie to strike, began to remember himselfe; and his guiltie conscience (which as the wise man saith, is a boundeth witness) would not suffer him to walk with so great confidence, yet least feare should be suspected in him, whose god fortunes and life wholie depended on his courage, hee oftentimes lookt abroad, but attended by such a band of base companions, as if it had bene the proude Changuis leading his legions of Tartars thorow Europe. But when the day of his appearance came, he was backt with such a number of mechanickall rebels, that Hubert in stead of attempting him with vphraids, was faine to temper him with flattering persuasions: yea the stoutest counsellors, though neuer so considerate, were faine to intreat him, whom they had resolved to threaten and imprison. William seeing them abashd,

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swared bold, and in these words saluted them: Honorable Fathers and graue Councelloz, according to your Honorable summons, and the dutie of a subiect, I present my self before you, attended in this sort as you see, not to violate lawes by lewd insurrections, but both to present my service to my Prince and your Honors, and to drawe my friendes and wel willers to that dutie, wherevnto in soule I am deuoted to this state. If therefore you haue ought to command me, or if my seruices in times past be any waie suspected; I stand readie to satisfie you in the one, or answere to the other. Hubert, that knew well that soft drops in time, pierce harde stones, and that the Diamond though not tainted by the hammer, is tempered in strong vineger, began to colour where he might not command, and flatter where he coulde not inforce; and thus he said:

Being assured, William, that good subiects tied by no bountie to their prince, yet yeelde him all obseruance, wee cannot persuaide our selues that you, who haue bene authorized by your prince to countercheeke iniustice, will be the pattern of iniurious insolence: for which cause we haue called you, not as condemners of your faith, but commendars of your forwardnesse: neither haue we so bad an opinion of these good men that follow you, that either they would be drawne to violate iustice, or you could be induced to violate and alter their honest and christianlike duties. Our onelie request to you in the kings behalfe, is to cast off this Lordlie traine, and suffer these poore men to follow their professions, least being vnawares assailed by want, they shall at laste desperatelie attempt wickednes. As for these good fellows who in their looks promise no losenesse, I beseech them in his Maiesties name to keepe their houses, promising them in generall, that if any one of them be wronged, they shall haue remedie. Nay, we will haue remedie in spite of you, said they, as long as William liues. And this said, without all reuerence they departed the place, carrieng with them their captaine commander, scoffing at the fainthartednes of the Archbishop: for full well was he assured, that greater

seueritie

of William Long beard.

generitie was concluded vpon, then he there would intimate: for which cause he continually stood on his guard, spotting all such men as hee thought were abettors of the Bishop.

The Bailifes of London, according to their authoritie, seeing matters were growne to such extremitie, kept diligent and strong watch, drawing some of the commons from him by faire words, and some by guifts: This notwithstanding, William was neuer vnattended. The Councell, who euerie waies were vigilant to rote out this viper from the common weale, what they could not by pzoues, they aduertured by policie, animating diuers valiant men with huge promises to marke his manners, and when the occasion was offered, to apprehend him at such time as he little suspected. But long was it per they either could finde oportunitie, or catch the fore in his forme: yet at last, when he least suspected, they caught him tardee in Breadstreet, attended onlie by ten or twelue; at which time, they drawing their swordes assailed him valiantlie.

But he, who in all conflicts of Fortune was both confident and courageous, first animated his retinue to the fight, and after that wresting himselfe by maine force out of their hands, he tooke him to flight towards the hart of the Cittie, and ranne into Cheapside. They who were buſſed against his poore followers seeing him fled, gaue ouer sight, and earnestlie pursued him. By this time, the cittie was in an uprore: the poore sort laboured to rescue William: the Bailiffs with the best Cittizens armed them to back the kings officers: so that the cittie was altogether vp in armes. William long heard seeing himselfe hotlie pursued, and knowing no mean to escape, crept to a poore Carpenter who staid in Cheape for worke, and taking his Are from him, desperatlie assailed his pursuers, and with his owne hands valiantlie slue some of them: but when he perceiued the factions of his enemies to be great, and his friends wel nigh tired, he betooke himselfe at last into Bow church, not for his sanctuarie, but for a bulwarke of his safetie.

The life and death

Whither repaired all the poore commons, some with bats, some with spittes, and such weapons as they had, dyuing a waie all the kings officers in despiight of their friends, and determining with themselves rather to dy than to lose their William Long beard amongst the rest Maudline his minion knowing that his wracke was his ruine, came vnto him there weeping mild teares from his immodest eyes, the so mollified his marbell heart, that (as some testifie) he was more moued therewith, then with the threats and terrors of his greatest enemies: but for impietie where it preuaileth, how it worketh: That church which was sacred to prayers, was now made a den of rebels: those places which were reserved to holie uses, were now soiled with dishonest abuses: where before our Ladie was prayed to, lewdnesse was plaied withall. But to bring these causes to their Catastrophe, suddenly that darknes for this time ended the discention, and the comming on of the night, wrought also the conclusion of the fight.

How William with the long beard after long trouble was taken by the kings officers, and executed for his misdemeanors.



Sooner gan the howers draw forth the bright chariot of the sun, and the star that beattifieth the morninges breake, that vpper beames in the bowels of the hidden Hemisphere, but Richard and his counsell ascertained of that which was happened, commanded the Bailifes of the citie by expresse letters to ferret him out of his hole, and cease the tumultes, by their authorities, for which cause, the Bailifes attended by a bolde troope of men in harnesse came into Cheape. The eldest of whom, being called Gerard de Antiloche, handled himselfe with such grantie, and vsed so effectuall perswasions, that the commons for the most part withdrew them to their owne houses, and after assurance of pardon from his Maieste, betoke them to their labour. As for the rest in the Church, when neyther persuing

of William Longbeard.

persuasions could allure them, nor threats intenerate their hearts, the Bailifes fell to armes, and for the space of foure houres continued a bloudie and desperate fight. But when they perceined the Traitors were desperate, and the Church was sufficientlie strong to keep them out: they at last found out this worthe policie.

They caused some chiefe men to bring them great store of straw, which they fiered in diuers parts about the Church, & in euerie corner whereas the wind might worke the smoake and entrance, which so smothered and stifled them in the Church, that they were all of them for the libertie of a short time of life, to submit themselves to the iudgement of succeeding death. Hereupon, after manie wofull plaints poured out on euerie side by William, his Maudline, and other malefactors, they were all inforced to leaue the church, and submit themselves to the hands of the Bailifes, who according to the kings command, picking out William with nine other his confederats, committed them vnto warde for that time, dismissing the rest vnder the kings generall pardon: whose certified hereof, was not a little solaced. For which cause, he sent some of his Councel and Judges the next day who ascending the iudgment seat, called forth William with the Long beard with his confederates, arraigning them of high treason against God, the king and countrey.

Among all the rest, William shewed himselfe most confident: for neither did the taunts of the Judges extenuate his courage; neither could the bonds he was laden withall abash him any waies, but that with a manlie looke and inticing eloquence, he thus attempted the iustices. You lords and Honorable Judges, though I knowe it a hard thing to strue against the obstinate, or to extort pittie there, where all compassion is extinguished: yet will I speake, vsing the officer of nature to worke you, although I know I shall not win you. I am here called and indighted before you for hie treason, a hainous crime I confesse it, and worthe punishment, I denie it not; but may it please you with patience to examine circumstances: I haue imboldened the power

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For to innovation, to fight for libertie to impugn the rich; a matter in the common weales of Greece highly commended: but here accounted factions, and this: there subjects made kings, here kings master subiectes: and why not say you, and this not think I: yet am I faultie vnder a good president, and the ambition which hath intangled mee, hath not bene without his profit. To offend of obstinate will, were brutish: but vnder some limits of reason to defaulte, can you (my Lords) but thinke it pardonable: I haue raised one or two assemblies, and what of this: peace was not broken, onely my safetie was assured: and were it that the Law had bene injured, might not the righting of a hundred poore mens causes, merit pardon for two unlawfull assemblies: But you will saie, I haue animated subiects against their prince. I confesse it, but vnder a milder title; I haue councelled them to compasse libertie, which (if nature might be equall iudge betwene vs) I knowe should not be so haunoulte misconstrued.

For my last tumult, I did nothing but in mine owne defence: and what is lawfull, if it be not permitted vs, *Vim vi repellere*: But this pleade I excuse, knowing the lawes of this Realme admit no one of my constructions: If it be resolved I must die, doe me this fauour my Lords, to protract no time: execute your iustice on my bodie, and let it not pine long time in feare thoroowe supposall of extreames. For my soule, since it is deriued from a more immortall essence, I dare boast the libertie thereof, knowing that eternitie is prepared for it, and mercie may attend it. But for these poore ones who haue defaulted thorough no malice, but haue been misled through vaine suggestions, howe gracions a beede should your honours do, to exemplifie your mercie on them: poore soules, they haue offended in not offending, and but to enthzone me, haue overthzone themselves: for which cause, if consideration of innocent guiltines, & guiltie innocence may any waies moue you, grant them life, and let me solie enact the tragedie, who am confirmed against all fortunes tyrannies.

These

of William Long beard.

These latter words were delivered with so great vehemencie of spirit, and attended with so quickening motions and actions of the bodie, that euerie one pittied that so rare vertues should be rauished by vntimelie death, or accustomed with so manie vngodlie practises. The Judges, whoe were Socratical in all their speeches, shewing their Rhetorique in their vpriht iudgements, not quaint discourses; after the examinations, indictments, verdicts of the Iurie, and such like, at last gaue small and fatall iudgement: That William with the long beard with his confederates, should the next daie be hanged by stone and quartered: and so, after some other woorthie exhortations to the people to mainteine peace, and that they should shew themselves more dutifull, and after thanks to the Bailifes and good cittizen for their faithfull and good service to his Maestie, the assemblie broke vp, and the prisoners till the next daie were committed to the dungeon.

So soner was the gale mistresse of the daie break prepared in hir roseat coach, powdering the heauens with purple, but the Bailifes repaired to the prison, leading forth the William and those his other confederates to their execution. Then flocked about them diuers sorts of people, some to see those who were so much searched after: others to lament him whom they had so loued: at laste arriued at the place where they should finish their daies, & all stood to beholde their death. William, as principall in his life time of seditious practise, was to enact the first and fatall part in the tragedie: for which cause boldlie climbing vp the ladder, and hauing the rope fast lie cast about his neck, after some priuate prayers, he spake after this manner vnto the people: My god countreyemen, you are repaired hither to see a sozie spectacle, to beholde the follie of life paid with the fruits of death, to marke how sinister treasons, ende with condigne toiments: if you applie what you here see and beholde to your owne profits, I shall be glad, whoe now euen at this my last hower, desire rather you should reconcile your selues from all wickednes, then be dismaied or moued with my wretchednesse.

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Oh my déere friends, I now profess before God, & before men, that mine owne presumptuous climbing hath béene the iust cause of my confusion: I haue had more desire of glozie, then respect of God, more regard of dignitie, then of dutie, déeming it better to be a famous Traitor, then a faithfull and true subiect. For which my inestimable sinnes I crie God hartilie mercie, I beseech his Maiestie to forgue me, and pray you all by your prayers to implore Gods grace for me. Neither deserue I death only for the offence I haue made the king, but my conscience accuseth me, and I heere do openlie confesse it, that I was he who murdered Andronic Browne, in that he was a riual in my most lewde loue, This, this, if nought else, my countrey men, sufficeth to condemn me, for this and al I am hartilie sozie. My God, I repent me from my soule, my God. Which said, lifting vp his eyes to heauen, he praised a long time verie vehementlie and after manie fruitfull exhortations, finished his life to the comfort of those who wished his soules health. The rest of his confederates after their seuerall confessions, were served with the same sauce, and thus ended the troubles with their tragedies.

Their bodies cut downe, were buried by their friends, and happie was he among the poozer sort that had any thing to inritch the funerall of William Long beard: and notwithstanding his confession at his death, and diuers other evidences at his condemnation: yet were there diuers, whoe after his death held him for a saint, casting out slanderous libels against the Archbishop, terming him the bloodsucker of good men. There were manie superstitious women, who in their deuotion were wont to pray to him, and after his death digged by the ground about the gallowes tree, affirming that manie had bene healed of sundrie sicknesses by the touch thereof. All this their idolatrous constructions at first began by reason of a priest, a néere alie to William, who openlie preached, that by vertue of a chaine therewith William was bound, during the time of his imprisonment, there were diuers men healed of hot feauers, the blood that fell from

of William Long beard.

from him at such time as he was quartered, they cleerly
scraped vp, leauing nothing that could yeld any memo^{ry}
of him, either vnought or vngotten: But at last the Arch-
bishop of Canturburie remedied all these thinges, who firste
accursed the Priest that brought vp the fables, and after that
caused the place to be watched, where through such idolatrie
ceased, and the people were no more seduced. But for that
William wrote many notable Poems and translations in
the prison, which if you peruse will notifie vnto you his sin-
gular wit, I haue thought good to subscribe them, desiring
your sauable censure of them.

William Long beards Epitaph.

Vntimely death and my found fruits of Treason,
My lawlesse lust, my murders long concealed,
Haue shipwreckt life amidst my Aprill season,
Thus couerd things at last will be reuealed.
A shamefull death my sinfull life succeedeth
And feare of heauenly iudge great terror breedeth.

My mangled members in this graue included,
Haue answered lawes extreames to my confusion,
Oh God let not my murders be obruded
Against my soule wrongd through my earthes illusion.
And as the graue my liuelesse limmes containeth,
So take my soule to thee where rest remaineth.

Thou trauailer that treadest on my toombe,
Remembreth thee of my vntimely fall,
Preuent the time forethinke what may become,
See that thy wil be to thy reason thrall,
Scorne worlds delights, esteeme vaine honor small:
So maist y die with fame, where men of conscience foule
Perish with shame and hazard of their soule.

I haue herebinto annexed likewise some other of his spirit-
tuall

The life and death

tnall hymnes and songs, whereby the vertuous may gather
how sweet the fruits be of a reconciled and penitent soule.

The First.

That pittie Lord that earst thy hart inflamed
To enterteine a voluntarie death,
To ransome man by lothed sinnes defamed,
From hel, and those infernal paines beneath :

Vouchsafe, my God, those snares it may vnlose
Wherein this blinded world hath me intrapped :
That whilst I traffique in this world of woes,
My soule no more in lusts may be intrapped.

Great are my faults, O me most wilfull witted :
But if each one were iust, there were no place
To shew thy power that sinnes might be remitted.
Let then O Lord thy mercy quite displace,
The lewd and endlesse sinnes I haue committed,
Trough thine vnspeakeable and endlesse grace.

The Second.

Such darke obscured clouds at once incombred
My mind, my hart, my thoughts from grace retired
With swarmes of sinnes that neuer may be numbred,
That hope of vertue quite in me expired,

When as the Lord of hosts my gracious father,
Bent on my dulled powers his beames of brightnesse,
And my confused spirits in one did gather
Too long ensnared by vanitie and lightnesse.

A perfect zeale (not office of my senses)
So seazde my iudgement smothered in his misse,
That heauen I wisht and loathed this earthly gale,
My hart disclaimd vile thoughts and vaine pretences.

And

of William Long beard.

And my desires were shut in seemely vaile,
So that I said, Lord, what a world is this?

After such time as he had receiued his iudgement, he grew
into this meditation of the miseries of life, which I dare a-
now is both worthe the reading and noting, yea even a-
mong the learnedst

The Third.

A shop of shame, a gaine of liue-long grieſe,
A heauen for fooles, a hel to perfect wiſe,
A theater of blames where death is chiefe,
A golden cup where poiſon hidden lies.

A ſtorme of woes without one calme of quiet,
A hiue that yeeldeth hemlock and no hony,
A boothe of linne, a death to thoſe that trie it,
A faire where cares are ſold withouten mony:

A fleſhlie ioy, a graue of rotten bones,
A ſpring of teares, a let of true delight,
A loſſe of time, a laborinth of mones,
A pleaſing paine, a priſon of the ſprite,
Is this my life: why ceaſe I then reſolued
To pray with Paule and wiſh to be diſſolued?

Thus endeth the life of William Long beard: a glaſſe for
all ſorts to looke into, wherein the high minded may learne
to know the meane, and corrupt conſciences may reade the
confuſion of their wickednes, let this example ſerue to wiſh
draw the bad minded from Bedlem inſolence, and incourage
the good to followe godlineſſe. So haue I that fruit of my
labour which I deſire, and God ſhall haue the glory, to whom
be all praife.

FINIS.



Of manie famous pirats, who in
times past were Lordes of
the Sea.

There were manie worthe Pirates
in our forefathers daies : but among
all of greatest reckoning, Dionides
was not least, who exercised his lar-
cenes in the Leuant Seas in the
time of Alexander the great and Da-
rius, disdainning either to serue the
one, or submit himselfe to the other :
yea so resolute was he in his robberies, and dissolute in his
life, that he neither spared friend nor fauoured foe, but robd
all in generall. Against this man Alexander leued a great
armie, and by strong hand subdued him : and afterward cal-
ling him into his presence, he said thus vnto him : Tell me
Dionides, whie hast thou troubled all the Seas : to whome
he thus replied : Tell me Alexander, whie hast thou ouerrun
the whole worlde, and robbed the whole sea : Alexander an-
swered him : because I am a king, and thou art a Pirat : tru-
lie (replied Dionides) Alexander, both thou and I are of
one nature, and the selfe same office : the onelie difference is
that I am called a Pirat for that I assault other men with
a little armie, and thou art called a prince, because thou sub-
duest and signiocest with a mightie host : But if the Gods
would be at peace with me, and Fortune should shewe her
selfe peruerse towards thee, in such sort as Dionides mighte
be Alexander and Alexander Dionides, perhaps I should be
a better prince then thou art, and thou a worse Pirat than
I am.

Stilcon for sixtene yeeres space was a pirat in the Car-
pathean Sea, and executed manie great robberies vpon the
Ba&rians

Of many famous Pirats.

Bactrians and highlie infested Rhodes. Against whom king Demetrius leuied an armie, and finally toke him: and calling him to his presence saide vnto him. Tell me Stilcon, what harme the Rhodians haue done thee, that thou so muche indemnifiest them: and wherein haue the Bactrians defaulted, that thou hast thus ruinated their Realmes: Stilcon answered, I woulde thou wouldest tell me Demetrius, what harme my father did vnto thee, that thou commandedst him to be beheaded: or wherein haue I iniured thee, that I am exiled by thy iudgement: I counsell thee in this my last hower, and not with the least consideration, that thou persecute not, neither pursue any man as much as thou maiest, because it is a matter verie dangerous to deliberate with them of peace, who are desperate both of life and honnoꝝ.

Cleonides was a pirat in the daies of king Ptolomey, and scowged the seas for the space of twenty and two yeares, and for seuen of the m neuer set foot on land from out his Gallie: This Cleonides was squint eyed, and crup shoulbred, not vnworthilie in that manner marked by nature, because euery waie he was most tyranouslie minded against euery prisoner he toke: he neuer obserued promise, or pittied prisoner: but those enimies he toke (amongest other millions of torments therewith he tyranized ouer them) he potored hot scalding oile into their fundaments, and set their feet in boiling oile, till they were burnt and scorched. Against him, Ptolomey sent out an armie: and hauing taken him, called him befoze his iudgement seat, and spake vnto him after this manere: Tell me Cleonides, what barbarous inhumanitie or infernall furie haue instigated thee, to inflict such insufferable torments on those who as thy selfe are men, and being as thy selfe, ought to be pittied by thy selfe: to whom Cleonides gaue this churlish answer: It sufficeth not me thou king, to execute my enuie vpon the bodies of those I hate, & whose haue persecuted me in their life times; but also I resolue to burne their bowels vp, and scalde out their harts therewith they hated me. Ptolomey wondzing at his desperate inhumanitie, gaue him this iudgement: that he should likewise

Of many famous Pirats.

by little and little be dipped in scalding oile, to the ende hee might tast the selfe same toymment wherewith he had attempted manie others.

Chipanda the pirat was a Theban boyne, and flourished in the time of Cyrus, a man of high minde, great valour, generous hart, and vertues hardinesse: for he had vnder his conduct 130. Shippes, with which he brought vnder his subjection all the kingdomes of the Levant, and struck continually all feare into all the heartes of the princes in the West. Against him Cyrus rigged out an armie, by whome his ships were conquered, and himselfe taken captiue: who comming into Cyrus presence, was by him saluted in this manner: Tell me Chipanda, whie forsakest thou my paie, and afterwards submittedst thy selfe to the seruice of the Parthian: to whom he thus answered: The lawes which are made on land binde not those that serue by sea: and those also which we capitulate at Sea, are not accustomed or vsed on lande: and I tell you this thing, because it is an auncient Custome amongest vs pirats, so often to alter and change our patrons as often as you shall see the windes alter and change at the Sea.

Milia the pirat liued in the daies of Dionysius, the first tyrant in Syracusa, and both of them were highlie at odds the one with the other: yet in such soft enimies, as they contented not which shoulde excede one another in goodnesse, but which of them shoulde haue the palme for vngodlinesse: for Dionysius ruinated all Scicily, and Milia sacked all Asia: he vsed this exercise of pyracie more than thirtie yeares, and at last the Rhodians arming themselves against him, took him: and afterwards they bringing him to the place of his execution, he lifted vpp his eyes to heauen and said thus: O Neptune god and lord of the seas, whie wilt thou not helpe mee at this houre, who haue sacrificed and drowned fure hundred men in thy wanes, and peremiale cut them in gobbets before thy maiestie: Fortie thousand haue I sent into the bowels of the floud, to the end they should enrich the bottome, and thirtie thousand haue died in my shippes thoroowe sickness

Of many famous Pirats.

nelle: twentie thousande haue perished in my gallies manfullie fighting: and shall it notwe suffice in that heere I die alone, whoe haue glutted thy vast waters with so many carcasses.

Alcomonius was a pirat at such time as Scilla and Marius flourished (and following the faction of Scilla, was he that tooke Caius Caesar when he fled from Scilla, whom Caesar very often after a pleasant manner assured, that he had deliberated to hang him and all his confederates by the neck, and according to his words accomplished his promise, at such time as he came to the gouernement of the Romaine commonweale. This Alcomonius being readie to die, said; I am little grieued for that I lose, and lesse afflicted for the maner of death by which I die: but this is it that vexeth me, that I fallen into his hands who was once my prisoner, whom I might haue hanged then, as he now hangeth me.

There were likewise manie other ancient and moderne pirats, whom for that I am studious of breuitie, I in this place willingly pretermitt: It onely sufficeth you, that you consider that no one of them died in his bed, neither made testament of his goods, but as soone as the fatall houre of their destinies was arrived, they died both defamed vnto the world, and detested for their wickednes.

The Agisincts were famous pirats in the time of Themisticles, who turned out a hundred Gallies amongst the m, and tooke all of the m: and after he had imprisoned and disarmed them, hanged them vp: which act of his caused him to be fauoured in Greece, and feared on the sea.

Frauncis Enterolles a famous pirat was bozne in Valentia of noble parents and a princelie stocke: This man committed mightie and manie robberies at sea, and in the riuer of Genoua: and finally, when in the yeare 1491. he had long time followed a chase, he was by tempest and fortune driven vpon the Ilande of Corfica, and those whoe by chance escaped the daunger and fury of the Seas, incountred death on the land, and were all of them with their capteine Francis hanged by the neck for their piracies, the rest that were left,

The Historie of Partaritus

were made Gallie slaues, being by the Flunders surprised in their Gallie: and this was the end of this noble Valentinian.

Monaldo Guecca a famous pirat borne in Nauar, flourished in the yeare 1496. This manne hauing occupied and strengthened himselfe vpon the rocke of Hostia, hindered all the conuey of victuals to Rome after such a manner, that neither wine nor cozne, neither any other merchandise could be brought either from the kingdome of Naples from Corsica, or the riuer of Genua vnto the cittie: Against him Pope Alexander sent the great Consaluo; who toke the rocke, and brought Menaldo bound to Rome vpon a leane Jade in manner of triumph. And it is reported that he went with so confident a countenance; that he enforced terror in all those that beheld him, Consaluo, for that he was a Spaniard, got him his pardon, and wrought the Pope to be very bountifull vnto him.

A true and famous History of *partaritus* king of *Lombardie*, who being pursued by *Grimaldo*, fled first of all to *Cucano* king of the *Anarior Huns*, and then into France, and finally after manie trauailes was restored to his kingdom with much maiestie, wherein the worthy memorie of two faithfull seruants is happily registred.



Artaritus was the sonne of Albert kinge of Lombardie, who after the death of his father reigned himselfe in Millan, and Gundibert his brother in Pavia. Betwixt these two there grew a mortall discention, for which cause Gundibert sent Caribald Duke of Turinge to Grimoald duke of Beniuent a most worthy and balliant Capteine, requesting his assistance in armes against his Brother, and promising him in rewarde thereof, to bestowe his sister vpon him in marriage. But Caribald vsed Treason against his Lord, animating Grimoald to the enterprise not as an abetter, but a conqueror. For (said he) you may easily occupie the kingdome, by reason of the twoe brethren, whose strength

king of Lomberdie.

through their dissentions haue almoste ruinated the same. Grimoald ascertained herof, made his sonne Duke of Beneuent: and leueng a mightie power, set on wards on his way to Pauiā, and through euerie Cittie that he passed, he drew friends vnto him, and won the better sort with benefites, to the end they should assist him toward the attainment of the kingdome: and coming to parlie with Gundibert who (little suspecting the trecherie which Garibald had complotted, came slenderlie and courtlie accompanied to intertaine him) he on sudden slue him, and occupied the kingdome. Partaritus ascertained hereof, abandoned Rhodeline his wife and his little sonne, and fled to Cucano king of the Auarior Huns: Grimoald confirmed in the kingdome of Pauiā, vnderstanding that Partharitus was entertained by Cucano; sent ambassadoers vnto him, threatening him, that if he retained Partharitus his enemie in his kingdome, he shoulde be assured to purchase of him a mightie enemie, and more, to occasion a present and dangerous warre.

The king of the Hunns ascertained hereof, called Partaritus vnto him, and said thus: I pray thee, gentle friende, depart into some other place: for if thou be here resident, my good will towards thee will occasion great warres against me selfe. Partharitus vnderstanding the kings mind, returning into Italie, went and sought out Grimoald, reposing his life vpon the good dispositions of his enemie: And drawing nere the Cittie of Lodi, he sent before him one of his faithful seruants called Vnulse, who might make manifest to Grimoald, both how much he trusted him, and what he required at his hands. Vnulse presenting himselfe before the kinges spaiestie, told him that Partaritus his maister had recourse vnto his clemencie, and sought succour in his court: Grimoald admiring his confidence, faithfullie promised him that he might repaire vnto him, vpon the faith of a prince swearing him, that before he should be harmed, he would hazard his owne hart.

A little while after when Partharitus presented himselfe before Grimoald, and humble kneeling on his knees besought his

The Historie of Partaritus.

his fauour, the king pitiouslie and grationlie entertained and kissed him, towhome in humble manner Parcharitus saluted thus : mightie Soueraigne, I am thy seruant, who knowing that thou art a Christian, doubt not of thy compassion. I might (as thou knowest O king) haue liued among Pagans : but what life were that : and howe base confidence were I in rather to trust the faithlesse, then humble my selfe to the faithfull : I beseech thee of mercie, and kissing thy feet craue maintenance. The king according to his maner swearing a solemne oath, promised him sauing : By him that begat me, since thou hast recourse vnto my faith, I will neuer forsake thee ; but I will take order for thee in suche manner, that thou maiest both honestlie and honozable liue in this countrey. Wherevpon he commanded him to be worthilie lodged, giuing charge that he should be furnished of all necessaries whatsoeuer, vpon his treasure.

It chanced that Partaritus departing from the king, and repairing to his lodging, was suddenlie encountered with a whole troope of Cittizens of Pauiia, who came to see him and salute him, as their foreseemed friend. But see what great mischiefe proceedeth from an euill and detracting tongue : For some malignant flatterers beholding the same, sought out the king, and gaue him to vnderstande, that if he made not Partaritus suddenlie out of the waie, himselfe without all doubt should lose both his kingdome and life : swearing to him, that all the cittie was already addicted to take his part.

Grimoald considering these thoughts, and by his ouermuch credulitie suspecting more then he needed, suddenlie resolved on the death of miserable Parcharitus : and calling his councell vnto him ceased not to contriue the meanes howe the innocent might be made auaie. They seeing that daie far spent resolved the deed should be done, the next morrowe answearing the king by good words, who otherwise through feare was almost out of his wits : notwithstanding the old their persuasions gathering to himselfe more confidence, the better to colour his intention, he sent vnto him that
night

king of Lombardie.

night manie excellent dishes and strong wines, purposing (if it were possible) to make him drunke : assuring himselfe that by the meanes thereof he for that night shoulde haue moze care of his sleepe than regard of his safetie.

But see how God helpeth the innocent : for a certain gentleman who before time had bene a seruistour in Partharichus fathers court, presenting him with a messe of meate from the king, and leaning downward as if intending reuerence to his Maestie, tolde him secretlie howe the kinge the next daie had resolved to put him to death. For which cause Partaricus suddenlie called his squire, willing him for that night to giue him no other drinke but a little water in a siluer cup: knowing this, that if those who presented him in the kings behalfe would request him to carouse to his health, he might easilie doe without intorcatating his bzaines, drinking onelie water. Those that serued him at the table, seeing Partaricus take his liquoz so liuelie, certiffed the king thereof: who with much ioyfulnesse said, let the drunkerd drinke his fill for this night: but to morrowe per euer he suspect the banquet, I meane to feast him with his owne blood.

This saide, he caused his guard to be set the house, fearing and suspecting, least Partaritus should escape him in any sort. The supper being ended, and euerie one hauing taken his leaue, Partharitus thus left alone with Vnulle his trustie seruant and the Page who ordinarilie attended on him to bed, he discouered vnto them howe the king had resolved to kill him : for which cause Vnulle winding him about the necke with the sheetes of the bedde and laicng the couerlet and a Beares skin vpon his backe, leauing him without capp, as if he were some rusticke or common drudging fellowe, began to drue him out of the chamber, doing him manie injuries and villannies, so that he verie oftentimes fell to the ground.

Grimoalds guard, whoe were appointed vnto the watch, seeing al these outrages, asked Vnulle what he meant. Why said he, my maisters, this rascal slaue hath made me my bed in the chamber of that drunken palliard Partharichus, which

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is so full of wine, that he sleepeth as if he were dead without stirring : and this is the cause whie I beat him, and I praye you doth he not deserue it : They hearing these words, and beleuing them to be true, did all of them laugh verie hartlie to heare the tidings, and giuing both of them licence to depart Partaritus hasted to the cittie of Hasti, and from thence went into France, praising God for his happie deliuerie.

As soone as they were gotte awaie, the faithfull page locked the doore verie diligently, remaining all that night alone in the chamber : and when the messengers of the king came with commission to bring Partaritus to the pallace the next daie, they knocked at the doore, whome the page in humble maner saluted, praying them to haue patience for a while : for (saith he) my Lord being wearie of his last iourney, sleepeth now verie soundlie : The messengers returning to Grimoald, told him the pages answer : who all enraged, charged them presentlie to bring him to his presence : who repairing againe to the chamber doore, were in like sort once more solicited by the page to vse forbearance : but they admitting no delays, cried out hastilie and hartilie, tut, tut, the drunkard hath now slept enough, and therevpon bearing the doore of the hinges they forceably entered the chamber, and sought Partaritus in his bed, but found him not : wherevpon they asked the page what was become of him, who answered them that he was fled : The messengers all amazed herewith, furiouslie laying hands on the chilles busshie lock, and buffeting him pitiously, brought him to the pallace : and conducting him to the presence of the king, saide, Waightie Prince, Partaritus is fled, and this caitife boy helpt to conuey him : and for that cause meriteth death : Grimoald commanded them to lay hands off him, and willed him with a friendly countenance to discover vnto him the manner and meanes how his maister had escaped awaie : The page told him euery thing as it had past ; whose faithfulness when the king had considered vpon, he royally offered him to make him one of his pages, assuring the lad that if he would be as faithfull to him as he had shewed himselfe towards his old maister, he

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he should both be rewarded and regarded.

After this, he made search for Vnulf, who being brought before his presence, was pardoned by him, and not only pardoned, but commended. But as where affection is rooted, there no fauours can supplant it, nor promises suppress it: so these two louing their maister Partarichus vertie daerelie, took no delight but onelie in desire they had to see and serue him: for which cause a few daies after they repaired to Grimoald, beseeching him of license to seeke out their maister. While my friends (quoth he) had you rather seeke out your necessities, then liue with me here in all pleasures? By God replied Vnulf, I had rather die with Partharichus, than liue in all other worlde contents and delights. What (saide the king to the page) wilt thou also rather seeke out a bannished man, then serue a king? I my Lorde, saide he: for they are bad seruants that will leaue their maisters in miserie. Grimoald wondering at their confidence, & praising both their faithes, dischaiged both of them with all fauour, giuing them both horse and money to furnish and further them on their journey.

The two faithfull seruants humblye thanking the kinge, took their waie into France, hoping to finde their maister in that place according as was appointed. But Partarichus fearing least by reason of a peace latlie capitulated betwixt Dogobert kinge of France and Grimoald, he should be there surprised suddenly by some sinister subtiltie, took shipping for England: and hauing already sailed from the shore, the voice of a man was heard among the rocks, which asked for Partarichus and whether he were in that ship. Whereunto when answer was made that there he was, the voice replied, Then will him presentlie repaire vnto his countrey: for Grimoald a three daies hence is departed this life: Partarichus suddenly returned backe, commanding the mariners to reenter the harbour: and as soon as he was landed, he diligently sought out the messenger that had thus informed him: but finding him by no meanes possible, he supposed it to be some message sent from God. For which cause, passing towards his

The wonderful dreame

countrey, and arriuing amongst the confines of *Italie*, hee found there a great number of *Lombards* who expected him, with whom he entered *Paui*, and bringing out a little son of *Grimoalds* from the kingdome; he was by generall consent created kinge of *Lombardie* thre monethes after the death of *Grimoald*. For which cause he presentlie sent vnto *Beneuent* for his wife *Rhodolinde*, and his sonne *Cunibert*: And being a godlie Catholike and iust man, a liberall patron of the poore, and father of the innocent: as soone as he hadde quiet possession of the kingdome; in that place from whence he fled, which is on the other side of of *Tefinus*, he builded a monasterie to the honoz and glorie of God his saviour and oncke defender, wherein there were diuers *Spannes* inclosed, whom he alwaies enriched with manie very goodlie possessions.

The *Queene* likewise builded a church in honour of our *Ladie* without the citie wals, adorning it with maruelous rich ornaments: his page and trustie seruant returning to his court, as soon as they had tidinges of his establishment, were by him fauourable intertained and richlie rewarded. Finallie, after he had reigned eightene yeares, he departed this life not without the generall lament and teares of the whole inhabitants of *Lombardie*.

The wonderfull dreame of *Aspatia* the daughter of *Hermotimus* the *Phocencian* a verie poore man, who afterwards thorough hir wonderfull vertues, became the wife of *Cyrus* king of *Percia* and was afterwards married to *Artaxerxes*.



Aspatia was the daughter of *Hermotimus* of *Phocis*, who after the death of hir mother, was brought vp and nourished in great pouertie: yet was not hir pouertie so græuous, as her continencie was gracious: in her infancy she had vnder hir chin a great swelling, which disfigured hir face, and

Of Aspatia.

and was a great disgrace to hir faire nesse. For which cause hir father desirous to haue hir cured, carried hir to a physician, who promised to heale hir for a certeine summe of money. The good olde man hauing no money, tolde the physician of his little meanes, beseeching him to stand fanourable vnto his child: but the greedie wretch which was to well learned in no pennie no Water noster, told him, that then he had no medicine for him: for which cause the poore Hermotimus and his sicklie daughter repared home without succors. Aspatia being thus ill beset, entered hir chamber, and setting hir glasse betwene hir legges, she gased so long intuetiue on hir imperfection, and with so manie tender teares bemoaned hir wants, till at last she fell asleepe, where vpon a suddaine she behelde a doue changed suddenlie into a woman, which saide vnto hir, Be of good chere, and leaue these drug-maisters, and goe vnto the dyed crowne of Roses vpon Venus head, and taking some of them beate thou them to powder, and then doe thou but strewe them vpon thy greiuous soze.

Aspatia hauing performed no lesse then was commanded hir in hir vision, was healed and became verie faire, and so manie were the graces wherwith she flourished, that no man could either compare or equall them. She had hir haire glorious and gold-like golden, somewhat daintilie curled, hir eyes sterie and cristalline, hir nose hooked, hir eares little, and the coulour of hir face like vnto Roses washed in milke, hir lippes crimson, hir teeth more white than snow, hir voice was delicious sweete and muscalle, hir delights were estranged from all effeminate newfangelnesse: she studied not to be rich in apparell (which is but the verie surfet of substance) because being nourished in pouertie, shee could not nor would not in any wise yeelde any art to her beawtie, wanting both the meanes and the manner.

It chanced that this maiden amongst a great manie others was bought by a Baron, who belonged to king Cyrus, who seeing that she was beawtiful and faire, brought hir (after a verie solemne and sumptuous supper) into the presence

The wonderful dreame

of Cyrus, accompanied with three other Grecian maides, who were tricked and attired by courtlie dames before hinde, to the end they might know how to entertaine and delight the king; onlie Aspatia would not admit any soile for hir faire, but after many refusals, at last consented to put on a sumptuous habit, wherein she stode so melancholie and blushing, as if she thought all lookers on unworthie to beholde hir beawtie: and fixing hir fiery eyes vpon the ground, she wept bitterlie before Cyrus, who commanded the three other Virgins to sit downe by him, who were obsequious to his will: but Aspatia fained as though she heard him not when he called hir, untill the Baron who bought hir, enforced hir to sit by his maiestie.

Cyrus dallieng and beholding the three other virgines, commended their countenances, and condemned not their behauiour. But hauing but touched Aspatia with the the tip of his finger, she suddenlie cried out, telling him that she should be punished if she vsed such licentiousnesse. This her behauiour pleased the king, whoe afterward offered to dallee with hir paps, she presentlie hung from him and offered to depart: for which cause Cyrus maruelling at the great mind of Aspatia sarre against the custome of Percia, said vnto him that had bought hir, Thou hast onellie brought this mayden vnto me free, sincere, and without spot: these others are but counterfeits in their customes, and their beawties are but borrowed not naturall.

Here vpon Cyrus affected by this meanes, and earnestlie fixed his loue vpon Aspatia so that he forgot all other fancies, addiuing himselte onlie to hir bed and beawtie. Not longe after, Aspatia called to hir mind the dome she had seen in hir dreame, and the speeches which were vsed, and in regarde of those benefits she had receiued, she erected a statue of golde in honoz of Venus, and annered therevnto a done beawtified with costlie gems, offering daielie sacrifices to remunerate the Goddesse kindnesse. She likewise sent vnto her father manie rich Jewels, and made him a man of great authority. A few daies after a faire and curious Caranet was

of Aspatia.

was sent out of Theslaly in present to king Cyrus, who reioicing greatlie at the same, and finding his Aspatia one daie asleepe, laid him downe by hir, and (after some amorous em-
bracings) drew the carcanet out of a casket and saied vnto hir. How saiest thou my loue, dost not this ietwell become
either the daughter or mother of a king? yea my liege saide
she: whie then my loue; it shall be thine quoth he: discover
therefore thy neck, and put it on.

Aspatia little respecting the rich gift, reuerentlie & sage-
lie replied thus, how should I be so bold to submit my necke
vnto that gift, which is a present moze conuenient for Parisa-
tides thy mother: Give it hir my Lorde, and I am ready to
shew you my neck without any such ornaments. Cyrus re-
ioysing at hir answer, kissed hir, and hauing witten all the
manner of discourse which had past twixt him and Aspatia, he
sent the same with the carcanet vnto his mother. Parifatide
no lesse delighted with the letter than the carcanet, renume-
rated Aspatia with rich gifts and royall presents, and conclu-
ding a gracious opinion in that Aspatia gaue hir place, shee
euer after loued hir and presented hir both with the carcanet
and much other treasure. Aspatia humbly receiuing hir in-
estimable curtesies, sent both the ietwell and treasure to Cy-
rus with this message: These for a tyme will helpe thee, and
for that thou art mine ornament, meane while I haue obta-
ined a great gift, if as I both should and would, I heartelie
loue thee.

Cyrus was amazed at this deed, and not without reason,
because this woman had no meane minde, but the courage
of a great and magnificent princeesse. But when Cyrus was
slaine in the warre which he waged against his brother, As-
patia remained prisoner: not without long sought out, and
at the last found by the noble Artaxerxes, she was deliuered
of hir bonds, & such as had captiuated hir, were committed
themselves. Finallie, being richly apparailled like a Prin-
cesse (although by reason of the death of Cyrus she made great
resistance, Artaxerxes being vehementlie enamored of her
beautie, after long intreatie and comforts, at last won her

A wonderful reuenge

consent and married him: yet as some writers testifie, the in
tire affection she bare him last husband, was neuer extinguish
ed vntill she died.

A wonderous reuenge executed by *Megollo Lercato* of *Genoua*
vpon the mightie Emperour of *Trabifonda*.



At such time as the Genowaies were
Lords of certeine citties in the Leuē
it chanced that amongst other Cittiz
ens thoe traffiqued in Cassa, & were
most familiar with the Emperour of
Trabifond, there was one called Me
gollo Lercato, thoe by reason of his
rare qualitties, was excēdinglie fa
noured by him: for which cause he was grēuouslie enuied,
and hated by the principall courtiers, thoe ceased not conti
nuallie to inuent new meanes & waies whereby they might
bring him in disgrace. It fortuned that sportyng himselfe
one date at the game of chesse with a yong Noble man who
was greatlie beloued by the Emperour, they fell at wordes
and bitter vpbzaides: amongst all others, the yong Noble
utteryng certeine speeches in contempt of the name of Ge
nowaies, Megollo was inforced to giue him the lie: but see
the other little moued therewith, his countrey dishonoured,
and the court laughing at him, he sought his remedie at the
Emperours hands, from whom he could get no redresse in re
paire of his honor.

For which cause Megollo hottlie discontent (though for a
purpose he smothered his displeasures a space) a fewē dates
after vpon a lawfull cause toke occasion to craue the Empe
rours licence, and departing to *Genua* altogether inflamed
to reuenge, he furnished himselfe by meanes of some pa
rents and friends, and rigging out two warlike Gallies, he
sailed with them into the greāt sea, and there inuēozed him
selfe to spoile all the coast and ransacke euerie shippe belon
ging to the Emperour: whomeſoeuer hee toke, in waite of great

great disdain he cut off their noses and eares, and though there were manie ships set out against him, yet in spite of all he neuer desisted from endangering him: and this might be the better for some, in that his ships were verie swift: and when he found himselfe at any disadvantage, he coulde both leaue and take how and when it pleased him. It chanced amongst manie other preparations that were set out to intrap him; foure stout Gallies were rigged, who vpon consultation as soone as they had discovered him, denided themselves apart, thinking to inclose him in the midst of them, & so all at once to assaile him. Megollo that quicklie perceived their policie, suddenlye fained to die: whom when their swiftest Gallie had long time pursued, and ouer-wrought all his consort, Megollo made hed againste them; and slewe them, and serued them all after the same saure, to the woonderfull amaze and discontent of the Emperoz.

Amongest one of these Gallies, there was an olde man with his two sonnes, whose fearing the like fortune which had befallne others, should light on him and his sonnes, humble prostrating himselfe at Megollos feet, he humble intreated him for mercie: The old mannes teares were gracious, and had such power ouer the generous mind of Megollo; that he forgane both him and his sonns with the rest that were aliue in his Gallie, and sent him back vnto the Emperoz with a vessell full of Eares and Noses, willing the olde man to let the Emperoz vnderstand that he would neuer cease to indemeinie him, vntill such time as he hadde sent vnto him the man who had so disdainfullie and dishonorable injured him in his court.

The Emperoz ascertained hereof, determined with himselfe as the lesser euill, to go himselfe in person vnto the sea, and carrie with him (as he did) the yong man, who had occasioned all this trouble: Megollo hearing thereof, thrust his Gallies nêrer the shoze: when as the Emperoz presently in a light boat sent him the yong Noble with a rope about his necke: whose hauing his eyes proude with teares, humbled himselfe at Megollos feet, beseeching mercy: Megollo com-

The memorable deeds

passionate therewith, bad him get him thence, telling him that it was not the fashion of the Genowaies to tyrannize o-
uer effeminate milksops.

The parents of the yong man seeing him returne againe beyond their expectation, receiued him with great ioye: di-
uers offers were made by the Emperoz to Megollo, who re-
fusing them all returned this answer: That he came thither
not for desire of riches but for honours sake, and to eternise
the name of the Genowaies, admitting no other covenantes
but this, that in memorie of those his actions, a pallace shuld
be reared in Trabisond for the commodity of the Genowaies,
wherein he would that by a curious hand and cunning work-
man those his actions shoulde be eternized: which being af-
terwards fully obserued by the Emperoz, they whose traffi-
que there followe their marchandise with more honoz then
they were accustomed. Megollo after this worthe act re-
turned home to Genoua, where he was receiued and gratifi-
ed with great honours by the Cittizens.

The memorable deeds of *Valasca* a Lady of *Bohemia*, whose
causing all other Ladies to kill their husbands, Brethren, and
sonnes, reigned seuen yeares in *Bohemia*.

THead in the Bohemian hystorie writ-
ten by Pope Pius, that this *Valasca*
of whom I here meane to intreate,
was a woman of great mind, bolde
in all attempts, and highlie fauored
by Fortune: and to the end you may
the better vnderstand hir hystorie, I
will first of all begin with hir cause of
hatred. You haue therefore to consider, that *Crocus* second
Duke of *Bohemia* dying without issue male, his daughter
Libussa held in those daies in as great account as one of the
Sibils with the fauour of the people, and good liking of the
better sort, was placed in hir fathers seate, and gouerned
that Proruince many yeares, with the generall good liking

of all men. Finallie, hauing giuen a full sentence in right of certeine possessions against a mightie man in that countrey, he being therewith incensed, prouoked by the people against hir, saying that it was an oprobrious & scandalous thing for such a people as they were, and so great a Nobilitie as was resident in that place, to suffer the kingdome & causes of iustice to be vnder a woman.

Libussa hauing intreated silence at their hands for a time, said vnto them that she knew their new desire, and was not ignorant of their firme determination, disabling her selfe to satisfie their expectatons, praiesing them to assemble the next daie; which, according as she willed them they performed. The morning began noe sooner to pulke forth his blasinge beauties, but the people repaired to the iudgement seat in great multitudes: and as soone as the pallasce was filled & tierie waies by them, Libussa began to speake vnto them on this maner: You know (Bohemians) that to this present day I haue bene your peaceable and bountifull Ladie according to womens custome, whop are andatious in nothing but in offering cartelles. Hitherto haue I not bene offensive to any of you, either chargeable by reason of Pompe, shewing my selfe rather a mother vnto you, then a mistresse: but ingratesfullie, unkind men as you are, requite you my gouernment. But at these your actions woonder not I at all, because you accustome your selues to the common fashions of men, who are neuer content, but are moze skilfull to desire a lust and mercifull Lord, then hauing him they haue knowledge to keepe him.

As touching mine owne title, I wholie surrender it into your hands: and as you haue desired one who shal gouerne you, and order your lawes as he list; so am I contented you shall haue him. Therefore go ye and take me a white horse, and brydle him with all his other apparell and ornaments, and afterwards lead him to such a plaine where he may take that waie which best likes him. Which done, let him trot as he list, and follow you him by his footsteps: as he turnes, so turne you: and as he returneth, so returne you: finallie,

The memorable deeds

when you shall see him state before a man that feedeth at an iron table, then assure your selues he is the man forpointed to be my husband, and your prince. This his speeche pleased them all: so that taking with them the horse as Libussa had instructed them, they let him free hee goe and followed him. But scarce hee had they travelled ten miles, when as the horse staid at a riuer called Biele, and arrested himselfe before a countrey fellow called Primisslaus: shewing manie signes of humanitie and obseruance toward him.

The Bohemians, as well the nobles as commons, beholding this, ran with all hast vnto him, and after their salutations said thus vnto him: spount vpon this horse, and goe with vs: Libussa hath chosen thee for his husband, and the Bohemians admit thee for their prince: Primisslaus, although he were a poore countrey clothe, not incapable of the general desire of rule which attainteth all men, gaue vnto them a homely salutation after his manner, and tolde them that he was addressed to do whatsoeuer pleased them: and vnder standing that he was to goe to Libussa (as if hee had a longe boiage to make, he fastened his bottle to his saddle bow, and grasping his bread and cheese in his hand he rode on feeding like a rusticke king, which was a verie sufficient endence of that which Libussa before time had declared and told vnto them.

As soone as his guttes were full and his bottle emptied, he mended his pace, and they conducted him with great pomp and honnour into the cittie, where he tooke Libussa to wife, and during all his life time was wholie ruled and governed by his counsels and perswasions. But after she had submitted herselfe to the destinies, the government remained wholie in Primisslaus hands, and the authoritie of Ladies ceased, which euen vnto that hower was both maintainted and augmented by Libussa. After this, Valasca (which whilst Libussa liued was his secretarie) being a Ladie of great valour and no lesse resolution then an Amazon, not induring or abiding that the authoritie of women should be thus annihilated, assembling one daie in a private place all those that were of her faction,

Of Valasca.

faction, she said thus vnto them :

My sisters, we haue lost our good Ladie, who alwaies defended vs from the outrages of men, neither could she euer endure that we should be ouerborne by thm, so that she her selfe held the Emperie, and we with hir were in respect held and accounted for Quenes. You see now, how enforced we indure a hard and miserable seruitude, liuing vnder the gouernment of our husbands after the maner of slaves, except of our selues we shall gather head and courage to recover our former liberties. Wherefore, if your thoughtes be as mine is, let vs soine like heroick Ladies, and we will easily recover our estates. I (as you know) was secretarie vnto Libussa, of whom I learned that which she knew: I am skillfull in inchantment, and the nature of hearbes is not vnknewne vntome: if therfore you haue any meaning or will to followe me, assure your selues, that you shall be once againe lords ouer men.

Vpon these words, the whole assemblie of women concended to Valascas words, and mutuallie conspired against men. During this time, Primislaus dreamed one night, that a virgine gaue him bloud to drinke: for which cause he being a notable soothsaier, and willing to preuent a mischief which (as he imagined) might verie easilie be impugned, hee conuocated all the chiefe nobles of his Province, vnder intention to prohibit the ouer-great licence and libertie which women had in the common weale: namelic, the women were accustomed to ride and run the race on horsebacke, to tourney, shote, and followe the chace, and biesite to exercise themselves in all warlike discipline, which (as he thought) were matters manageable by men, and vnsit tasks for women. But the Barons scoffed at him when he told them thereof, and said, that they rather deserued lone and reuerence for their agilitie and hardines, then reppose and dishonor.

Valasca meane while desired not neither daye nor night to exhort hir confederates, and often with drinke & inchantments turned away their affections from the loue of men, and daye by daye drew moze and moze into this her League

The memorable deeds

of conspiracie. Finallie, when she perceiued that she hadde gathered a sufficient power both of married wiuues & maids, in one night she caused euerie one of hir faction to kill their fathers, husbands, brethren, and sonnes in their beddes, and afterwards taking armes, with great expedition, they all of them marched together to a place appointed them by Velasca, not farre distant from Prage, and subduing some that had them in chase, they made a roade to Visigrade whereas Primislaus aboad, intending there to surprize him: but seeing they could not take the foytresse, they retired themselves into a mountaine, a place naturallie impregnable, and there building a castle, they called it Deuiizo that is, the place of virgines, because that in their tounge a virgine is called Deuiize.

This action of theirs seemed abhominable to all the inhabitants of the countrey, as wel in respect of the great slaughter they had made, as also because they had a great suspicion of further mischæfe, for which cause they generallie gaue Primislaus to vnderstand, that they were addrest to bidde these new Amazons battell, and that, if it pleased him to marche forward with his host, they also were in a readinesse to follow him. He is certified them, that at that present he could not come, by reason that the Gods had admonished him, that all those who were addicted to indemnifie the virgines, were to die; certifieng them that it was behouefull to go another tyme. But they, who set light by his counsell, leueng by themselves a great armie, marched toward Deuiizo and striking battell with Valasco, were ignominiously ouerthrowne and put to flight with the slaughter of the greater part of the armie: and whereas in this service Malada, Nodea, Suatacia, Vorafta, Ragda, Zastana and Triftana, had behaved themselves valiantlie; in rewarde of their service they had collars and chaines of golde giuen them: and amongst that vnumerable pray which they had, euerie one was rewarded according to their desert.

Valasca slue with his owne hand seuen of his enemies, and after that time was held and esteemed for a goddesse, so that
never

of Velasca.

neuer after that time the Bohemians had the courage to trouble or molest them : But they euerie daie ranged about the confines, spoiling, robbing, and burning, and daie by daie inforced greater dread and feare in the harts of their enemies : and being now Ladies and Soueraignes of the better part of Bohemia, they were constrained to haue the companie of men, by reason that otherwise by course of time and warres they were likelie to be reduced and brought to nothing : for which cause, marrying themselves they made a lawe, that those maidens who were bozne by them should with all diligence bee tenderlie and carefullie brought vpp : as for the males, they commanded that their right eyes should be pulled out, and their middle fingers cut off, to the ende, that hauing attained Spans estate they should be disabled to shote in the bowe, or to handle warlike weapons.

Finallie, Velasca hauing afflicted Bohemia for the space of seuen yeares, and made them altogither tributarie, was deceiued by Primislaus, whose wote hir a letter that the Barons against his will had attempted hir with war, and that he was greatlie pleased that they had receiued condigne punishment for their insolence : assuring hir, that he hadde alwaies held hir in place of his daughter, not onlie for that she had bene secretarie to his wife, and well thought of by her, but for that she knew so well to gouerne so great a state as Bohemia was for the space of seuen yeares. And moreover, that now since he felt himselfe olde and vnable to gouerne his subiects ; on the other side, his sonne too yong in yeares for so weightie a credit, that his will was to render into her hands the fortresses, so that by this meanes at one time he would yeld all Bohemia into hir hands, referring the estate of his sonne and heire, to hir kindnesse and curtesie, contenting himselfe to returne vnto his first estate, and liue satisfi- ed in the towne from whence perforce they had taken him, and after ward vntwillinglie crowned him. And him seemed as he wote, that it should so be, that as from a ladies hands he receiued the throne, so to a ladies hands he might return the title.

The memorable deeds

This letter written and sent unto hir, wonne such credit with hir, that presentlie she sent befoze hir a Squadron of hir best Amazons to receiue the fortresses, whoe were brought into the lande with great solemnitie, and entertained in the Dukes owne pallace: but whilst thee were at the table, they were all slaine by a trope of armed men, whoe were hidden for that purpose. They hauing slaine these, ran to Deuizio with a great arme, & Valasca hauing notice of the strange accident, issued hir selfe smallie vnattended and cloased in glittering armes, and mounted vppon a verie hye and lustie courser, that lightened fire from his nostrils, shee was followed by some few a farre off, whilst hir selfe solle incourted the whole host that came against hir, and without anie word speaking she laied about hir like a Lionesse or a Libian Tygre in his great furie. Finallie, falling in the midst and thickest of hir enemies, she died valiantlie.

Hir companions a farre of as some as they vnderstood of the death of their pyncesse, not vnder anie hope to conquer, but stimulated to worke reuenge, fell to armes: betwixt whom and the Bohemians was a most bloudie and desperate fight: but the Ladies at last hauing the worst, were enforced to fle, whom the Visegradians following, entered together with them into their Castle, and hauing caused the gates to be shut, and being Lordes of the fortress, they cut all the pooze women to peeces. And thus was Bohemia deliuered from the tyrannie and thraldome of women: And Velasca, being worthe to be eternized amongst the Ladies of most famous memorie, late vnburied, and serued for a prey for birds and beasts to feed vpon.

An excellent example

An excellent example of continence in
Frauncis Sforza.



Amongst all other I will not prefer,
mit a singular example of continence
in Francis Sforza, whose deserved in
this action of his to be compared with
Alexander the great, and Scipio the
noble: Cassanoua a castle of Luke be-
ing forcible surprised by Erle Fran-
cis. There were certaine souldiours
who toke a faire and tender yong damosell prisoner, whose
whilst they forcible drew hir from out the house, weepingly
besought them to present hir to the earle Francis Sforza and
to no other, so that they whose had outraged hir, fearing the
displeasure of the countie; suddainlie presented hir vnto
him.

At that time Francis by reason of his yong yeares, and the
sound completion of his bodie, was verie ppoane and addic-
ted to wanton and effeminate pastimes: and although hee
were intwiegled by the tender yeares and exceeding beautie
of the maiden, notwithstanding he inquired of hir whether
she had rather consent vnto euery pleasure wherein he might
employ hir, or remaine in their handes whose had first taken
hir. Whom she thus answered, that she would be alwaies
readie to obey him, so that it might please him to set hir free
from the handes of base iniurie. Whereupon Francis pre-
sentlie commanded that she should be conducted vnto his pa-
rillion. When night came, and before he entered the bed, he
asked the maiden againe, if she were of the same minde, or
whether she had changed hir purpose. Who answered him
that she continued resolved, then he willed that she should
disrobe and vncloath hir bodie, and so to laie hir selfe downe
by him.

But no sooner was she entred bed, but she espied the pic-
ture of our Ladie painted after the maner, wheron turning
towards

of Francis Sforze.

towards the Earle she wept and with all reuerence & thank-
fullnesse she saied vnto him : O my Lord I pray thee for
that vnspotted virgines sake, whose image is in our sight,
vouchsafe to be the protectoꝝ of my virginittie, and thorough
thy clemencie grant that without stain oꝝ dishonour I may
returne vnto my betrothed spouse, who liueth a desperat and
desolate life amongst the other captiues. And whereas I
promised thee to submit my selfe to thy will, no other thinge
moued me therevnto, then the desire I hadde to deliuer my
selfe from the hands of those who rauished me : and not that
alone, but the iustice and pietie I haue heard of thee, made
me conceaue a great hope to submit to him who had so great
vertues to command.

These words had so great power in the mercifull and ge-
nerous mind of the Captaine, that they extinguished in him
all heat of vaine desires, so that of his owne proper charges
he rescued the husband and redeemed him from exildome,
restoring the yong virgine vnto him as soone as he came in
to his pcesence. His spouse kneeling vpon his knees, and
sighing bitterlie, saide ; My Lord thou doste fullie answere
the great expectation and fame which through enerie part is
disperfed by thee, so that there is no land nor no peere in the
world that either may match thee for humanitie, oꝝ conquer
thee in clemencie. Almighty God, who may requite thee in
our behalfe, yeld thee condigne fauours for thy vertue. The
Countie would haue giuen him manie thinges of that price
that he had taken, but the yong maiden would accept no-
thing, saieing that the neighbours seeing such gifts, woulde
thinke and imagine that it were the price of hir virginittie
that she had lost, and so by that meanes she shoulde fall into
verie great infamie, which she euer rather chose to die than
death, wherevpon Frauncis Sforze dismissing them, they soe
fullie returned into their countrey.

Of many infortunate men.

Of many learned men ancient and moderne, who violently and infortunatelie ended their daies.

Themostocles the Athenian slue himselfe. Lucretius the Philosopher died the selfesame death, and Gallus (as learned as both they) was mutthered by his owne handes: Pliny was smothered by fire in the mountaine Aetna. Besides all these, manie other neuer seconded in science perished sinisterte. Thales the Milesian died for thirste, Zeno was slaine by the commandement of the Tyrant Phalaris. Anaxarchus by the iudgement of Nicocreon finished his life with manie tortures. Archimedes the Philosopher an excellent apathematitian was slaine by Marcellus souldiers: Pythagoras with his threescore schollers was put to the sword. Anacharsis died suddenlie. Diodorus burst thorough harts graefe, by reason he could not answer a question which Stilbo the Philosopher had propounded him. Aristotle after he had lost the fauour of Alexander, being in Calcide, drowned himselfe in the floud Euripus. Calistines his scholler was cast hedlong out of a window. Marcus Tullius had his ears and hands cut off, and set vp in the publike place where the Oratores declaimed.

Seneca was put to death by his scholler Nero, whoe had first caused his baines to be opened in a bathe of hot water. Iohannes Scotus reading in England, by a sudden conspircie of his schollers was with his best fauorites put to death. but if I should vnder take to repeat all the haplesse endes of these ancients whoe were excellent in learning, it were too long for me to write, or you to read. For which cause I will begin to let you vnderstand the death of some moderne learned. Petrarch died suddenlie, Domitius Caldarinus perished through the sicknesse of the plague. Confiliator was burned alive. Angelus Politianus finished his daies by hauing his

How king Rodorigo

haines dasht out against a wall. Peter Leo of Spoletum was drowned in a ditch, the Lorde Francis Pico was slaine by his tenants. Fisher and Thomas Moore were beheaded, Cranmer and Latimer burned, the rest since fresh in memorie I need not to trouble you with: I onelie set these down for the learned to consider vpon and examine themselves by circumstances, & cunninglie canuase in their conscience an argument *a comparatis*.

Howe kinge Rodorigo the last of the Royall house of the Gothes, lost his kingdome and life thorough his incontinence.

In the yeare 712. Roderigo reigned in Spaine, who earnestlie enamored of a daughter of Iulians Countie of Cantabre, and desirous to gather the fruite of his loue because otherwise he might not in that the maiden was verie honest and vertuous, he sent his father embassadour into France, & by that oportunitie enforcing his,

he satisfied his lewd and dissolute lust. Iolian returning into Spaine, and vnderstanding the heauie case and estate of his daughter, made shew before the king that he was bitterlie ignorant thereof, and after a few daies he fled into Affrica with all his familie: taking vnye his house in the cittie of Lepte: and seeking out Muca the gouernour of Affrica hee tolde him of the outrage done him by the king, and holme for that cause he was come vnto him. First to offer him a great rich, and faire empire: next, to profer him his seruice: and moreover said he, the time is come to renenge the Arabians which were slaine a few yeares past in the host of king Bamba. To the performance whereof I will backe you with the greater part of the Lords of Spaine, whose will be readie to assist you in this enterpryse, because the king is deathly hated of them, both for his crueltie and lawlesse corruption.

Muca

lost his kingdome.

Muca sent him vnto king Mulic in Arabia, whose bearing Iulianos purpose, dispatched him with letters to Muca ther in he wrote that he should fauour him with all reasonable helpes. Muca gaue him an hundredth horse and foure hundredth men on foote, vnder the conduct of a famous captaine called Tariffe: with this power they passed the Seas, & landed in Spaine: and to the end they might the more secure, lie heard the enemie, they builded a cittie which they called by the name of Tariffe captaine of the Barbarians. And as soone as Iulio had giuen notice to his confederates for what occasion he was come, & what desire he had to reuenge him of the iniurie done vnto him by the king, many of them vnitied themselues with the Arabians, and ouerran al the contrrey of Algazera which the said Iuliano had in gouernement vnder the said king.

The Arabians of Africa seeing the great progresse and fortune the countie had, and assured of his faith, sent him twelue thousand horse, and a great multitude of footmen, by reason that they had intelligence that the king had sent against him his cousin Ignicus with a huge host, who fighting many times unhappilie with the Moors, at the last was himselfe slaine, & all his followers cut in peces: whereupon the Moors being rid of this impediment, ouerran and spoiled a great parte of Spaine. For which cause the king leuted a greater army than the first, and comming himselfe to wage the fight with the Moors, there fell a terrible and dreadfull battell betwene both the armies, which continued eight continuall daies, saue onlie the intermission of night, but by reason of the rebellion of the two late kings sonnes called Detisa the king had the worst and perished in the field with many other valiant persons: and the Moors like couragious victors possessed the spoiles. This defeat was on Sunday being the xi. of September in the yeare 719 The Moors attaining victorie, had the dominion of Spaine.

Of many famous men.

Of many famous men whoe leaving the gouernement of the Commonweale gaue themselues ouer to a priuate life.



Atto the Censor was the most vertuous and best reputed Romaine that flourished in that time: for during al the daies of his life, there was neuer man that saw him commit anie light action, neither lose or diminishe any one inch of his seuerer grantie. This man after he had liued fifty and eight yeares, leaving the traualles of the common weale, went and spent the remnant of his life in the kingdome of Naples in a village called at that date Picenio, and in this time Pozzuolo living vpon his owne liuelhoods and reuenews: And whilst thus this good and vertuous Cato liued sequestred from all others, sometimes reading his booke, some other times trimming his vines, there was one of his neighbours who wrote vpon his gate with a coale, O fortunat Cato thou only amongst al others knowst how to liue in this world. Lucullus the Consul and Romaine captaine remained in the Parthian warres, and continued the same for the tearme of sixtene yeares: in which he acquired much honoz to Rome, many laudes for the common weale, much fame for himself, and as great riches for his house. This man, after he returned from Asia to Rome, and found the commonweale altogether swarming with dissensions by reason of the factions of Scilla and Marius, purposed with himselfe to leaue Rome and to build him a certaine place of pleasure nere Naples, vpon the river of the sea at this date called Castello di Lupo, in which place he reposed ten yeares: entitled to all kind of pleasures and quietnesse of mind, free from all traualles and troubles, till suche time as he finished his wearied age with a contented and worthie death.

Dioclesian, after he had gouerned Rome and the emperie for the space of eightene yeares, vtterlie refusing all the
Empire,

Of many famous men.

Empire, departed Rome, and repaired to Salona in Dalmatia where he was borne. But two yeares after that he had refused the Romain empire, an honourable embassage was sent by the Senate vnto him, praiesing him earnestlie that he would haue pittie on the commons, and content himselfe to returne to Rome. It chanced that at such time as the said Embassadors came into his pooze and homelie cottage, hee himselfe was in a little garden he had, setting of Lettises and diuers other hearbes; and as soone as he had heard the discourse of that they were to deliuer him, he returned them this answer: Seemeth it a requisite matter vnto you my freendes, that he who hath planted, cut, and watered lettice as these be, should leaue them to seke royalties, and not to eate them in repose and quiet in his owne house: yea my friends, it is better eating these in quiet, then gouerning of Rome with care.

Whereouer he said vnto them, How haue I proued howe much it auaileth to commande, and howe healthfull it is to plough and dig. Leau me therefore, I pray you, in my house: for why, I rather desire to get my liuing in this billage with my handes, than to haue the charge of the Romaine empire accompanied with hate. Porides the Athenian hauing in great iustice gouerned his common weale for the space of ffire and thirtie yeares, at laste growing olde and satiate of publike affaires, departing Athens he went vnto a certein Lordship of his left him by his suncellores in a certein village without the cittie; in which plienng his booke by night, and labouring his fields by day he liued fiftene years more; Aboue the doores of his house these words were wixitten.

In veni portum: spes & fortuna, valete

Nihil mihi vobiscum est; iudite nunc alios.

Scipio the Affrican was one of the best beloued and honored captaines that euer Rome had: for in the space of ffire and twentie peares wherein he continued warre in Spaine, in Affrica and Asia, he neuer committed anye dishonourable action, neether lost any battell: he neuer denied any man Justice, neether was there euer one obscure or base thought

A most subtile dispute

knowne in him: he subingated Africa, ruinated Carthage, overcame Hannibal, destroyed Nununtia, and also restored Rome, which after the battell of Cannas was almost forsaken and abandoned. This man in the two and fiftie yeare of his age departed Rome, and retired himselfe unto a little farme of his which was betwixt Pozzuolo and Capua, in which (as Seneca witnesseth) he had no other reuenewes but certeine fields wherein he lined, a house wherein he lodged, a barne wherein he bathed, and one of his Sephues who serued him: And with so great affection retired hee himselfe to the farme house, that for eleuen yeares space which he liued, he went not once to Capua or set foot towardes Rome. All these excellent men of whom we haue spoken, with manie infinite others also, left their kingdomes, Consulships, governments, citties, pallaces, fauourites, cares and riches for no other intent, but a quiet life: intending after worlde affaires to reconcile themselves to a more straight order, hauing respect to that which insueth after death.

A most subtile dispute made in Antioch in the presence of king Ptolomey, by seuen seuerall Ambassadors which of their Common-weales had the best lawes and most notable Customes.

Plutarch writeth in his booke *De exilio*, that king Ptolomey being in Antiochus, there were upon an appointed day at dinner with him manie embassadors from the Romaines, Carthagenians, Scicilians, Rhodians, Athenians, Lacedemonians, and Scicilians: whose falling into disputation amongst themselves, euerie one began to praise and extoll their countries Lawes and customes, as the best and most exquisite.

The dispute was handled with great seruencie betwene them,

amongst Ambassadors.

them, and with manie reasons each one endeuoured himselfe to dignifie his state : for which cause Ptolomey desirous to know the truth, and to bying all contentions and discords to an exigent, commanded them that euerie one should write or speake their customes or perfect Lawes which they had in their common weales: for by that means it might be easilie iudged, which pponince best deserved the Palme of iustice.

The Embassadors of Rome began and said, We hold our Temples in wonderous great honoz and reuerence, we yerld great obseruance to our gouernors and rulers, we grauouslie punish the wicked offenders and malefactors.

The Embassadors of Carthage saied, in the Commonweale of Carthage, the nobles cease not to fight, the commons and mechanicall persons to labour, the Philosophers and learned to instruct.

They of Scicilie said, In our lande we obserue intire iustice, we traffique with vpright conscience, and generallie embrace equalitie.

They of Rhodes said, In our common weale the olde people are honest, the yonger sorte shamefast, the Ladies and women solitarie and silent.

The Athenian Embassadors said: In our common weale the rich are not permitted nor allowed to be partiall; the pooze to be idle; neither those that gouerne, are suffered to be ignorant.

The Lacedemonians said, in our State, enute raigneth not, because all are egall: nor auarice because our goodes are in common: nor any suffered to be idle, but euerie one doth labour.

The Scicionians saied, In our common weale, we permit nor maintaine any traualer, least returning home againe he shoulde bying vs matters of noueltie, neither admit we Physitians, who spoile and kill the whole, nor

Strange Lawes of

Orators, who maintaine publike contentions.

Assoone as Ptolomey had heard all the seven Ambassadors, he praised all their common speales, saying: that they were iustitie and worthilie gouerned, commendinge their customes and holding their laues prasse worthe: whereupon with great honours enerie one returned to his lodging, glorifying and reioycing in their credit, and satisfied in his iustice.

Strange Lawes of Tirus the Tyrant where-through he withstood Conspiracies.

Tirus the Tyrant indenuouring to preuent the conspirations and treasons which might be imagined and wrought against him by his cittizens: forbade them by an especiall and prescript law, to surcease their priuate and publike conferences, tyrannizing aswell ouer their tongues as their treasure. But his cittizens enuieing and bating this his commandements, kept their consultations by becks, gestures, and eager countenances when they were agreed, and smiling and pleasant looks when they were contented: if dangers threatened them they frowned, if fortune favored they were not froward: by this meanes expressing and shewing the affections of their minds, and beluding the pollicie of the tyrant.

Tirus seeing and beholding this varietie in the faces of his cittizens, began to feare, and for that cause forbade them such like significatine and vniuerse consult: whereupon, one of his cittizens amongst the rest, repining at his tyrannie

Tyrus the Tyrant.

raime invented a new meane: and entering the pallas
with other friends, wept and cried out verie bitterlie. The
Tyrant understanding heeres, halsted him with some of
his guard, to depprue the eyes of their naturall libertie, in
like manner as he had reduced the tong and gestures in-
to seruitude, but the people amazedlie hating his insu-
lence, drew the weapons out of the hands of his
guard, and murdered both him and
all his followers.

FINIS.

